

Niagara Frontier

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REFERENCE



Niagara River

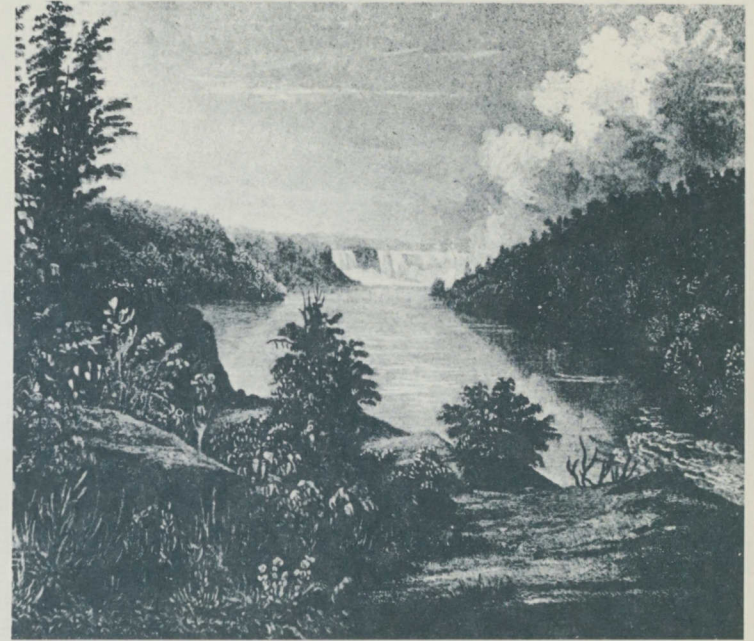
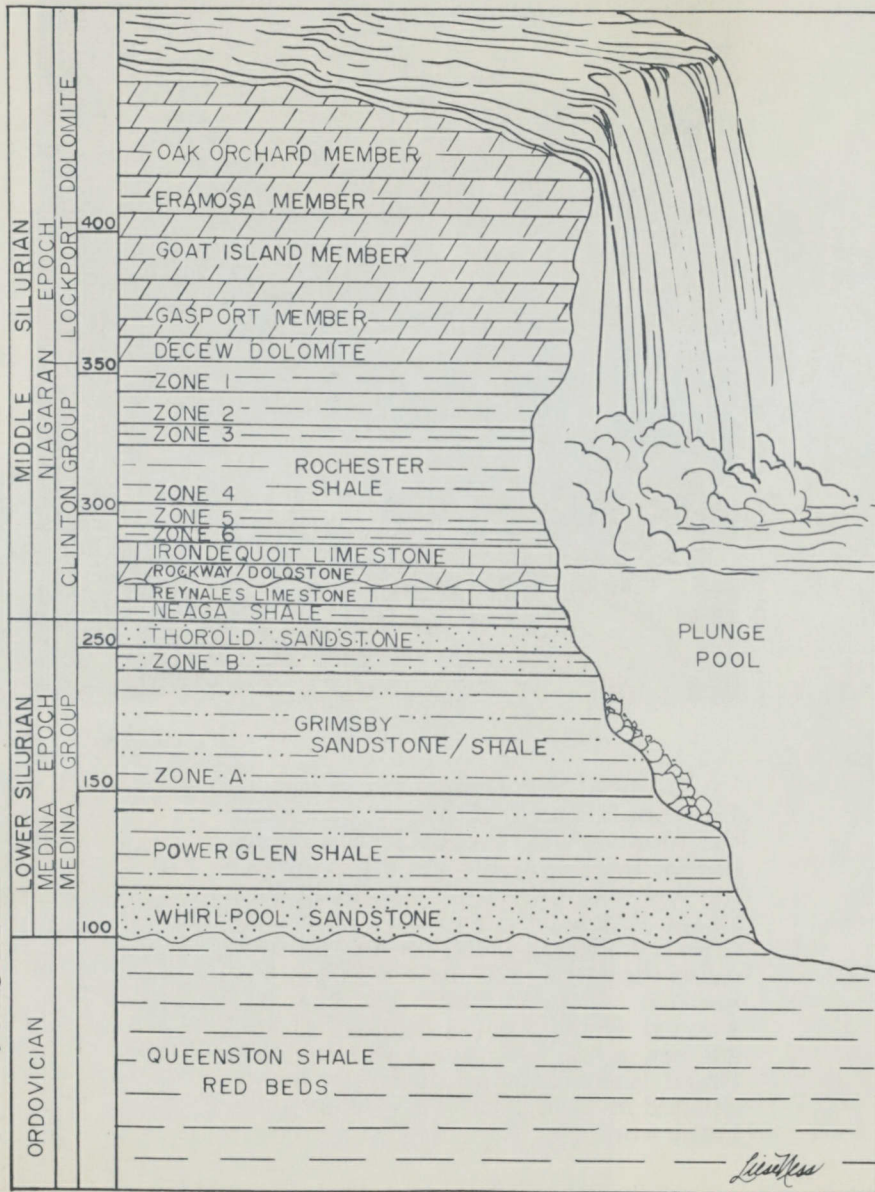
THE RIVER

"Tremendous torrent! for an instant hush
The terrors of thy voice, and cast aside
Those wide involving shadows, that my eyes
May see the fearful beauty of thy face!

Thou flowest on in quiet, till thy waves
Grow broken 'midst the rocks; thy current then
Shoots onward like the irresistible course
Of destiny. Ah, terribly they rage, —

The hoarse and rapid whirlpools there! My brain
Grows wild, my senses wander, as I gaze
Upon the hurrying waters; and my sight
Vainly would follow, as toward the verge
Sweeps the wide torrent. Waves innumerable
Urge on and overtake the waves before,
And disappear in thunder and foam."

— from *Niagara*, a poem by Maria Jose
Heredosia, translated from the Spanish by
William Cullen Bryant.

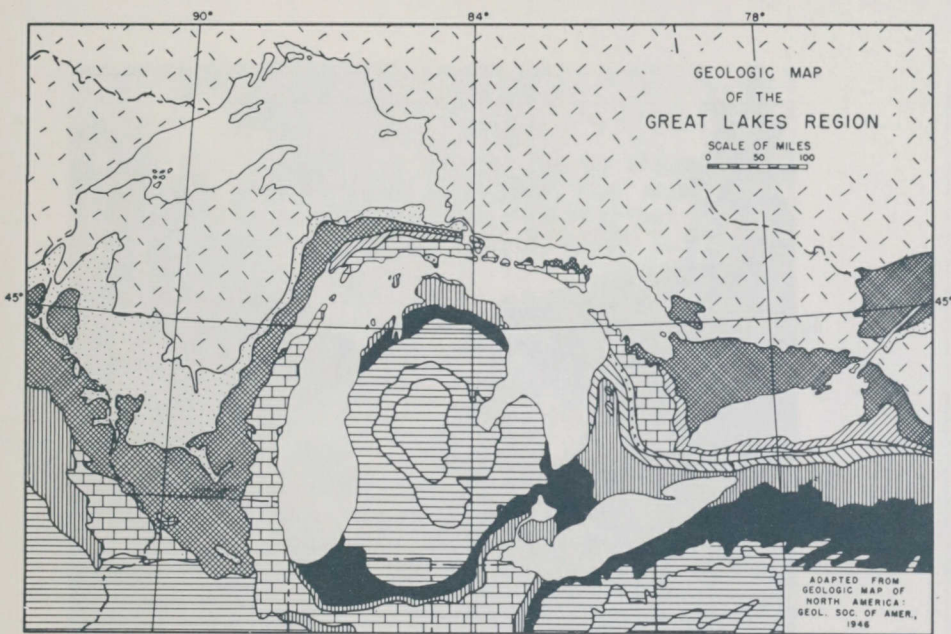


The Niagara River

GEOLOGICAL ASPECTS

The unique geology of the Niagara River has fascinated naturalists and geologists ever since the river was first discovered by Europeans in the seventeenth century. The Niagara is a relatively short river, actually a strait, running thirty miles from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario, but along its brief route are natural wonders which place it in a class by itself.





Below: A Landstat taken from a U. S. satelite, 1975, showing the Niagara River.

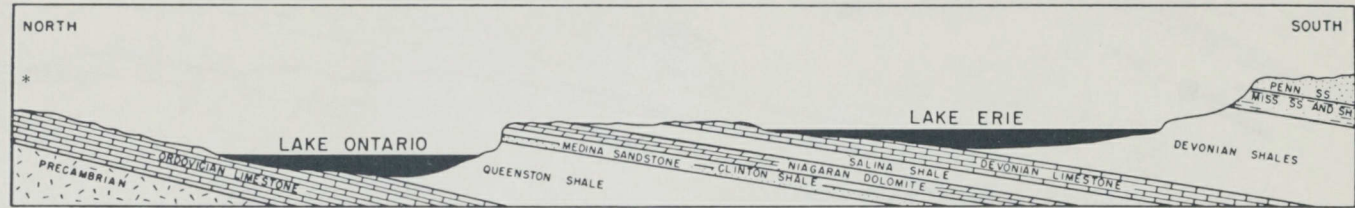


Power Authority of the State of New York



The beauty and grandeur of Niagara's 160-foot falls are well touted; in addition, the 400-foot wide river makes a 90 degree turn at the site of the Falls. It is one of the few rivers in the world to make such a turn. Five miles from its source at Lake Erie, the Niagara splits into two sections called the east and west rivers. These two sections flow around the beautiful wooded Grand Island. Eight miles long and six miles wide at its widest point, Grand Island is one of the largest islands situated in the middle of a river anywhere in the world.

Geological cross section through the western end of the Ontario basin and eastern end of the Erie basin, showing relations of the basins to weak shales.



*GEOLOGY OF THE GREAT LAKES, Jack L. Hough, © 1958, Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois.

Left: Niagara Falls, June 3, 1965; Below: Niagara Falls after June 14, 1969, when the flow was diverted to study erosion.



Power Authority of the State of New York

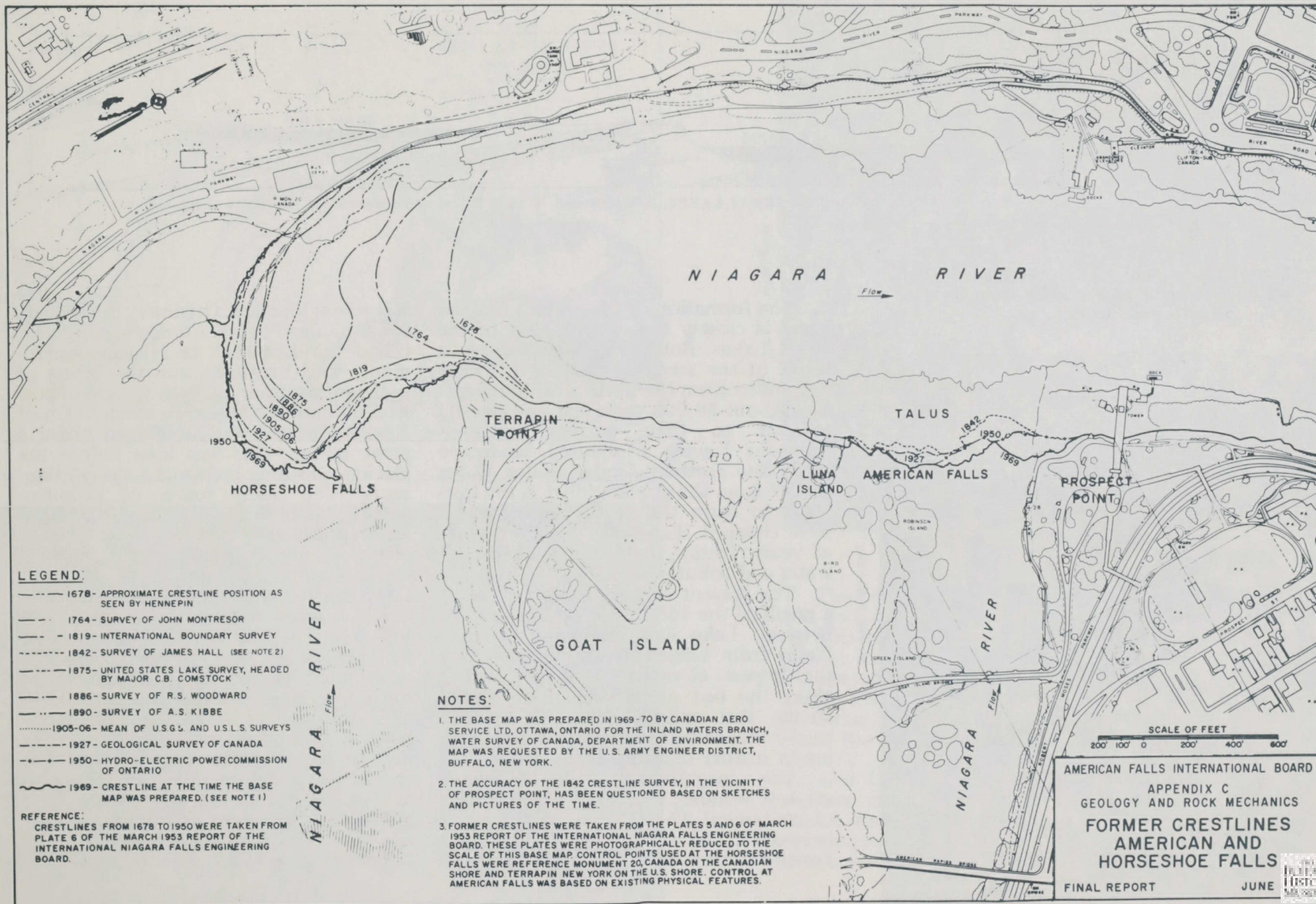
The formation of the present Niagara River is closely linked with that of the Great Lakes. Both came into being as a result of the receding glaciers that first descended from the north a million years ago. About 20,000 years ago, the glaciers receded to their current northern positions leaving a scoured landscape across the northern United States. Water runoff from the glaciers filled in the lowlands to form the Great Lakes, which have changed shape over the thousands of years. Today, they are fed by ground water and tributaries.

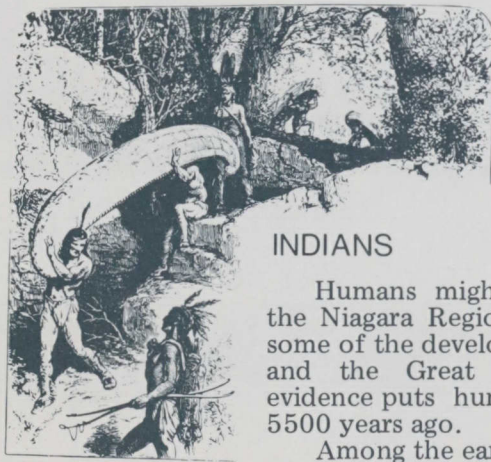
The present Niagara River formed as a result of the 450-foot drop in elevation between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. Water from Lake Erie naturally seeking the lowest elevation found its outlet along the bed of an ancient pre-glacial stream that existed along the present west river; thus, the Niagara River has a longer history than the Great Lakes.

The magnificent Falls, Niagara's greatest wonder, will always be a source of excitement. The Falls were first formed between 7,000 and 50,000 years ago at Lewiston, New York, six miles north of

its present location. Originally the Niagara River plunged over the limestone bedrock called the Lewiston or Niagara escarpment. This limestone and the layers of sedimentary rock beneath it were deposited 500 million years ago when much of North America was submerged under a great ocean. This was long before the glaciers and long before the age of dinosaurs. The many fossils of primitive aquatic life found in the limestone, shale, and sandstone strata along the banks attest to the antiquity of the bedrock.

The uppermost limestone layer at the Falls, called the Lockport formation, is much more resistant to erosion than the layers beneath it, thus the rush of the waters as they plunged over the escarpment caused an undermining of the upper layer. As this process continued, the undermined upper limestone layer would occasionally collapse. Over thousands of years this erosion has moved the Falls six miles up stream to its present locale. In the future it is likely that the Falls will destroy itself due to the downward slope of the Lockport limestone further upstream.





INDIANS

Humans might have been living in the Niagara Region early enough to see some of the development of Niagara Falls and the Great Lakes. Archeological evidence puts humans in this area at least 5500 years ago.

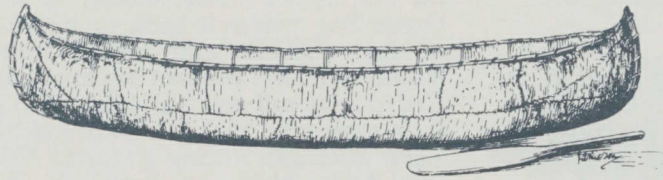
Among the early Indians were a group known as the Mound Builders for their method of burial. Later, Indians of the Algonkin stock moved into the area. They in turn were replaced by the Iroquois.

One theory is that the Iroquois Indians moved north to the Niagara from the Mississippi and Ohio Valleys. They grew to such strength that about 100 years before the American Revolution, the Seneca warriors, members of the Iroquois Confederacy, established a stronghold in the Niagara Region although they maintained most of their

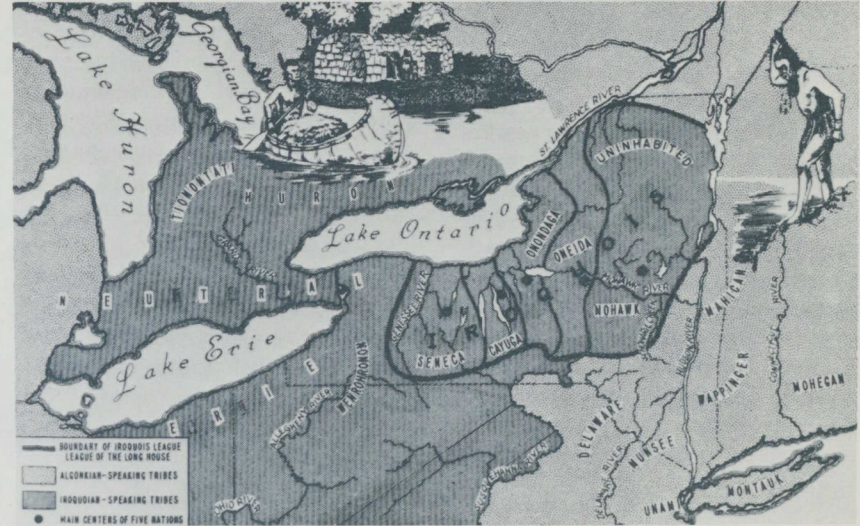
villages east of the Genesee River.

With other tribes of the Confederacy — Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, and Mohawk — the Senecas developed a blend of democracy, morality, and power in their governmental system. In the early eighteenth century, Tuscaroras, sponsored by the Oneidas, were admitted as the sixth member. Later, this system stretched from eastern New York across Western New York and Pennsylvania throughout numerous Indian nations that included the Huron, Neutral, and Erie. These nations opted to join in the Confederacy's devotion to the Great Tree of Peace. When the Europeans began to travel the new-found continent, they discovered a tribe of what they termed "primitive" people who were actually quite advanced in their government.

D. Lothrop



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Location of Iroquois and Algonquin tribes, ca. 1600.

Native American Center for the Living Arts, Inc.



Long House. Oneida Nation Museum, DePere, Wisconsin



Mural depicting Father Hennepin at Niagara Falls in 1678, in Overlook Building, Niagara Power Plant, Lewiston, New York.



Robert Cavalier, Sieur de la Salle.
Harper & Brothers

EXPLORERS

The earliest mention of the Niagara River and Falls made by a European was by French explorer Jacques Cartier in 1535. In 1613, Cartier made a map of the region, but never saw the Falls for himself, although he wrote extensively of it. Etienne Brulé was probably the first white man to see Niagara Falls. As an interpreter, he traveled among the Indian nations from 1615 to 1626.

Other explorers followed. Perhaps the most famous was Robert Cavalier de la Salle, who first traveled through the region in the autumn of 1669. On subsequent visits, he was accompanied by Father Louis Hennepin, who described the adventure in a series of illustrated books. LaSalle's intention was to open

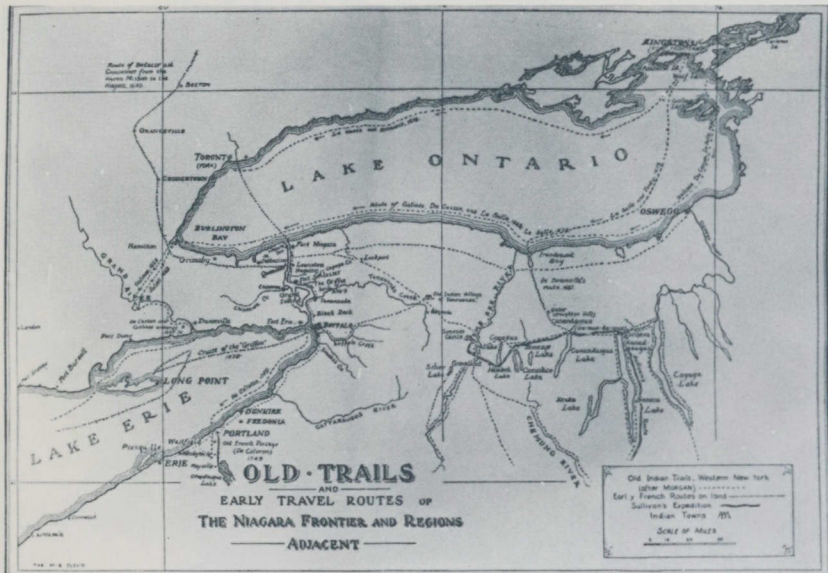
new trade routes in order to acquire a fortune for himself and for France. To do this, he and his men built a small fort on the site of present-day Lewiston, Fort Conti. Construction was begun on a ship, the *Griffon*, which was to engage in trade with the Indians around the Great Lakes.

The *Griffon* set its sails on Lake Erie in August 1679, the first ship to navigate on the upper Great Lakes. It reached Green Bay where it took on a rich cargo of furs. LaSalle and Father Hennepin continued their western exploration. The *Griffon* set sail and was never seen again. It is presumed that the ship was lost on Lake Michigan during a storm. This was the final blow to LaSalle's Niagara Frontier plans, causing him to leave the area to proceed further west.



The building of the *Griffon*, 1679. Facsimile reproduction of the original copper plate engraving first published in Father Hennepin's *Nouvelle Decouverte*, Amsterdam, 1704.





Charles Scribner's Sons



Selling arms to the Indians.

FORTS

FORT CONTI was built in 1679 at the mouth of the Niagara River on the present-day site of Fort Niagara. LaMotte, one of LaSalle's lieutenants, had two blockhouses and a stockade put up; but the fort burned before any fighting occurred.

FORT DENONVILLE was constructed by order of the French King, Louis XIV, and put in the charge of Jacques Rene de Brisay, Marquis de Nonville. It was built in 1687 on the site of LaSalle's Fort Conti. In that year, de Nonville and his French troops fought off one of the frequent Seneca attacks near Boughton Hill, New York. Encouraged by his success, de Nonville left a garrison of 120 men to complete and protect this new outpost on the Niagara.

The fort proved ill-equipped and badly located. Surrounded and cut off by the Senecas, 80 men died from cold, starvation, and scurvy in the winter of 1687-88. The arrival of reinforcements did not stop the Seneca attacks. In the fall of 1688, the French abandoned Fort Denonville for good.

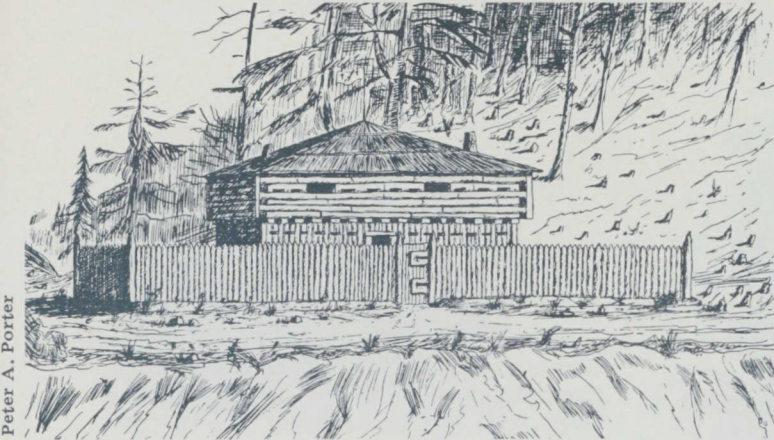
FORT NIAGARA was originally a French trading post built to counteract British influence on the Niagara. Louis Thomas de Joncaire, a successful French trader, was granted land by the Senecas, and he promised the outpost would remain non-military. However, the stone-and-timber structure, the "House of Peace," was obviously meant as a military fort. Although this escaped the Senecas' notice, the British realized the fort was intended as a guardian of the

excellent Niagara - Great Lakes trade position. Heavy cannons were installed; still the Senecas did not interfere. The British alerted the Iroquois, and both parties signed a document placing a 60 mile strip of land along Lake Ontario and the Niagara under British jurisdiction. Although allied with the British, the Iroquois continued to participate in the profitable French trade.

LITTLE FORT NIAGARA was built by Joncaire's son Daniel in 1751 as another in the portage chain. A village sprang up around it. In 1759, British forces marched on Fort Niagara, and the French burned Little Niagara. All that remains - a stone chimney - is visible today from the Robert Moses Parkway near the Falls.

FORT ERIE was originally built

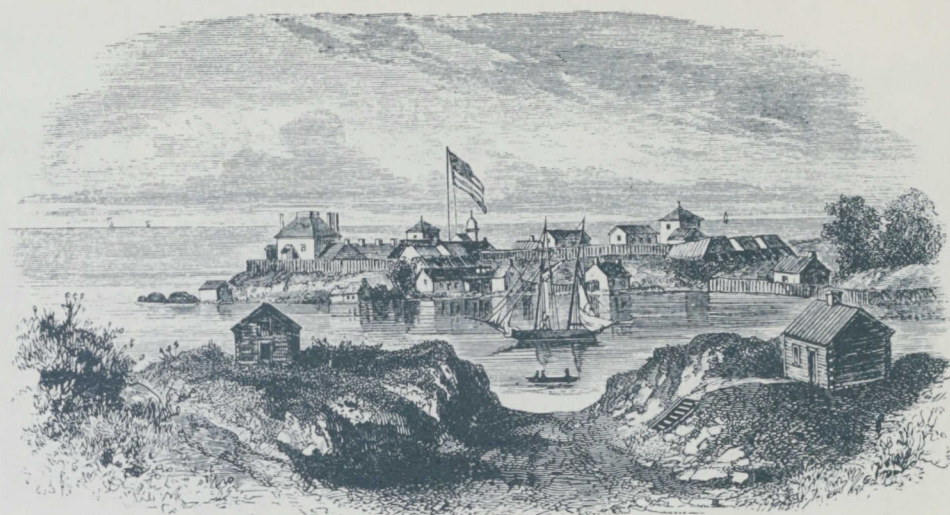




Peter A. Porter

Fort Joncaire

Harper & Brothers



Fort Niagara

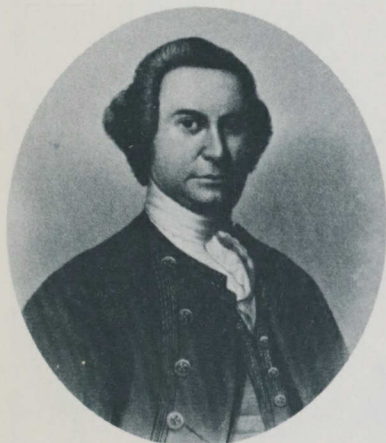
the French in 1750 and reconstructed by British Captain John Montresor in 1764. It endured the horrors of Indian wars and the War of 1812.

FORT GEORGE, located about one mile north of Newark (now Niagara-on-the-Lake), was a British defense base built around the end of the eighteenth century. Between Fort George and the River was a naval storehouse called Navy Hall. The first Parliament of Upper Canada assembled in 1792 in Navy Hall, under its first Governor, Col. John Graves Simcoe. Newark then became the seat of the Parliament of Upper Canada.

FORT SCHLOSSER was named for Captain John Schlosser, who served in the British army in the campaign against Fort Niagara in 1759. It was built on the site of Little Fort Niagara.

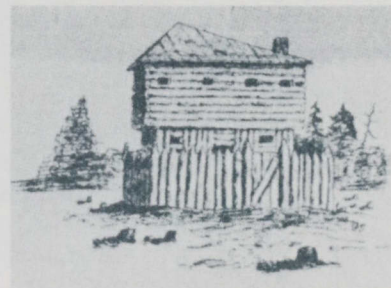
A. W. Sangster





J. Munsell

J. Munsell



A portage blockhouse.

BATTLES ALONG THE NIAGARA

THE 1759 CAPTURE OF FORT NIAGARA by the British was engineered primarily by Sir William Johnson, an influential mediator with the Indians. British troops outnumbered the French, who were lacking sufficient supplies. After the French refused to surrender, the British attacked. French reinforcements arrived by canoe, attacked the British, and were defeated. The French surrendered; 205 French and 100 British soldiers died in the week-long siege. This British victory marked an end to French control in the Niagara Frontier, and the final stage of the French and Indian Wars came to a close.

Pontiac's Rebellion occurred in the

aftermath of the French defeat and loss of empire in North America. Lord Amherst, the commander of British forces in North America, hated Indians and allowed traders and land speculators to deal unfairly with the Indians. Whereas the French had come to trade with the Indians, the British came to colonize and settle Indian lands. In 1763, a brilliant Ottawa war leader united many tribes and led them against the British in a sudden attack on Detroit. The Senecas also joined in the rebellion by ambushing at Devil's Hole a convoy traveling from Fort Niagara to Fort Schlosser and killing all but the convoy leader John Stedman and a young boy.

After the rebellion ended, the Senecas went to see Sir William Johnson to try

and escape punishment by the British Army. In return for this favor, Johnson asked for a four mile strip of land along both sides of the Niagara River. Meanwhile, the British moved to fortify the portage road. Captain John Montresor, an engineer who later built Fort Erie, built a chain of blockhouses along the route for the British. Finally, in 1764, the Senecas gave up four miles of the land on both sides of the Niagara River.

THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR found Fort Niagara serving as a refuge for both whitemen and Indians. Many Americans with Tory sympathies, forced to leave their homes, headed for the Fort. John Butler and his Rangers, who included Tories and Seneca Indians, were responsible for the massacres of rebel



colonists in Wyoming Valley in Pennsylvania and Cherry Valley in New York.

In response to these raids, John Sullivan led a group of patriots toward Western New York. By the time he had reached the Genesee River, he had burned many Indian villages and also destroyed their crops. Although Sullivan proceeded no further west, his foray did force Senecas out of their traditional home land and into land close to the protection of Fort Niagara. The British finally turned over the fort to the United States in 1796.

BEFORE THE WAR OF 1812, the population was growing on both sides of the river. In Canada, Queenston, Newark, (Niagara-on-the-Lake), Clifton (Niagara Falls), and Fort Erie were growing as fast as Lewiston, Manchester (Niagara Falls), Black Rock, and Buffalo on the American side.

The Niagara River, separating the United States and the British-owned Canada, played an important part in the War of 1812. Fort Niagara, guarding the northern part of the river and long recognized as a gateway to the West, was a major factor in many of the battles of the War. Up and down the river, in 1813, towns on both sides of the river were burned by the opposing armies. Neither side could actually claim to have "won" the war; but the lands along the Niagara River would, in the future, remain in relative peace.



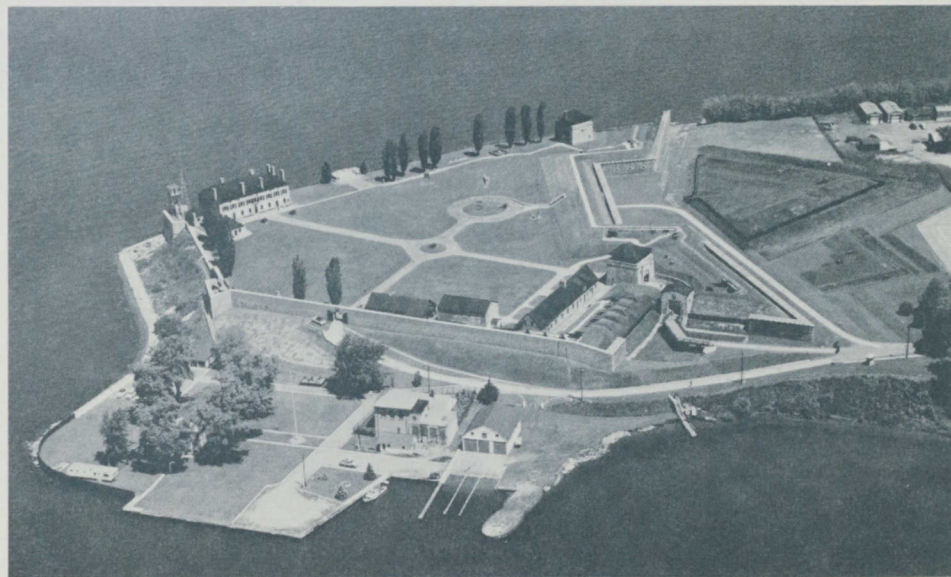
Gen. John Sullivan.



Charles Scribner's Sons

Indian villages destroyed by Sullivan's troops.

Fort Niagara from the air.



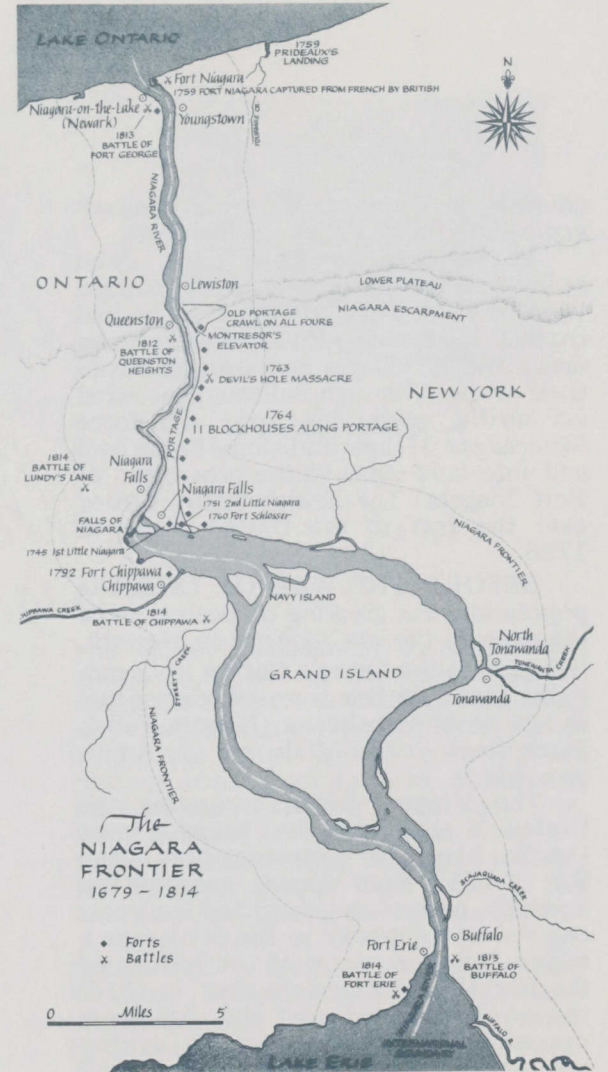
Power Authority of the State of New York



The burning of Buffalo, 1813.



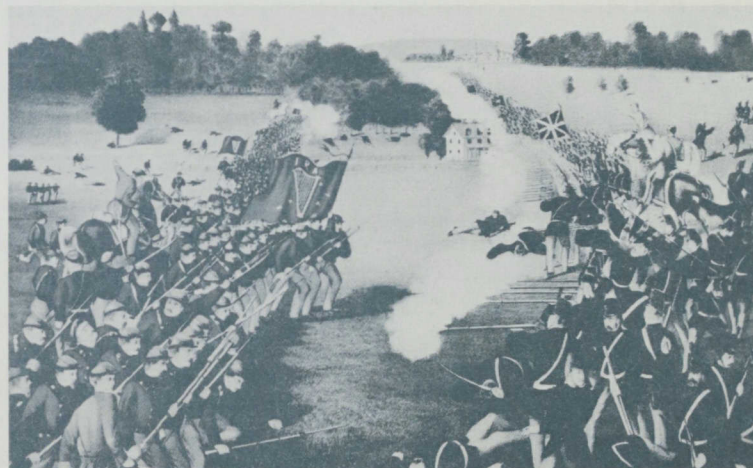
Battle of Lundy's Lane, July 25, 1814.





Burning of the *Caroline*.

THE 1866 FENIAN RAID was an invasion of Canada by a group of Irish soldiers discharged from the Union Army. Under the leadership of John O'Neill, they hoped to free Ireland from Great Britain by capturing the Canadian Niagara shore and the Welland Canal and holding them as hostage for Ireland's freedom. After an indecisive battle with militia troops at Ridgeway, the Fenians retreated across the river to the United States and the leaders were arrested.



Battle of Ridgeway.

W. H. Bartlett



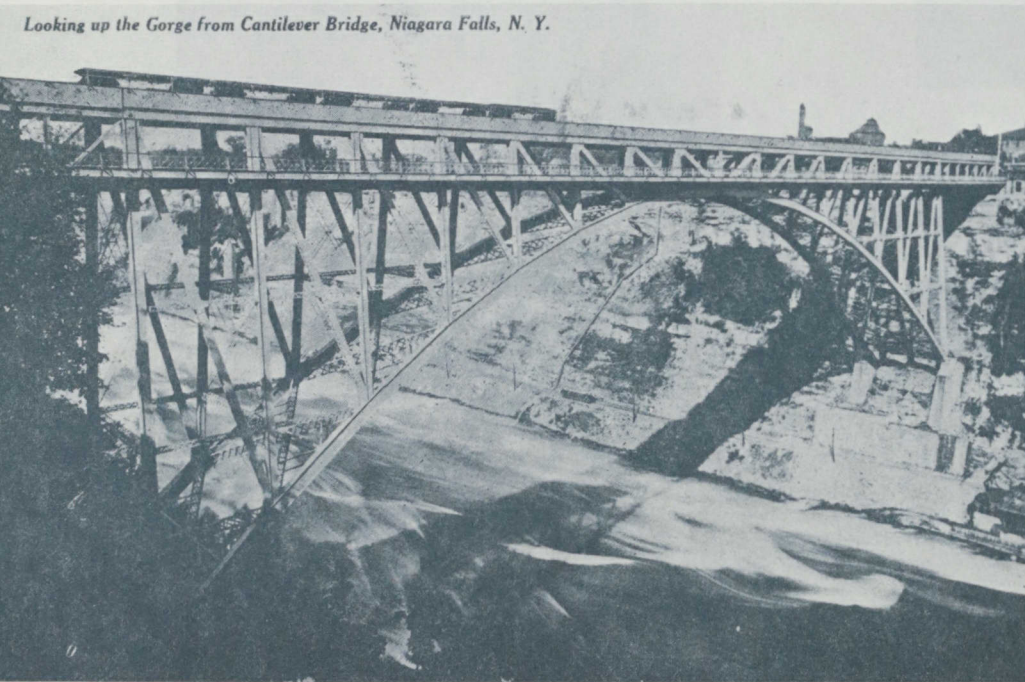
D. L. Glover



Opposite: Top left, *The Landing on the American Side* by William Henry Bartlett, 1840; lower left, the first Suspension Bridge, 1848; upper right and lower right, the first two-level Railway Suspension Bridge, 1955. Below: The present Whirlpool Rapids Bridge, built in 1897. Right: First Suspension Bridge at Niagara Falls, 1887 - 1888.

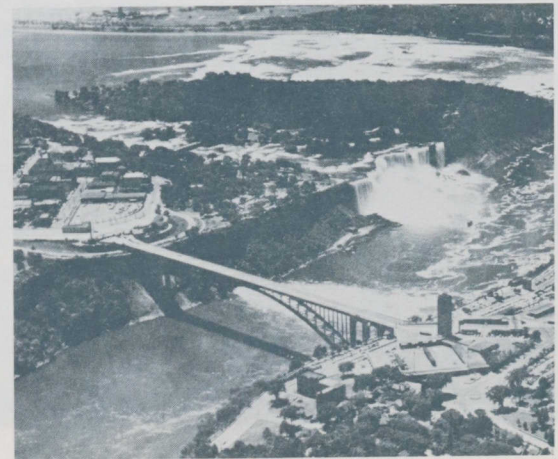
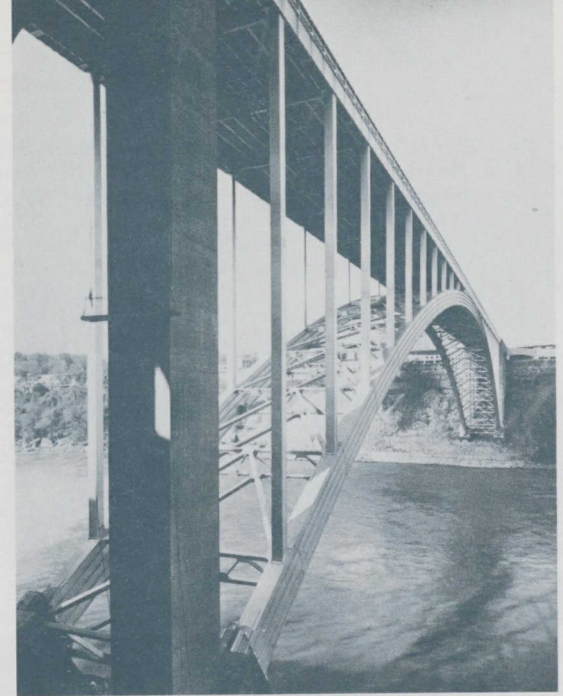


Looking up the Gorge from Cantilever Bridge, Niagara Falls, N. Y.



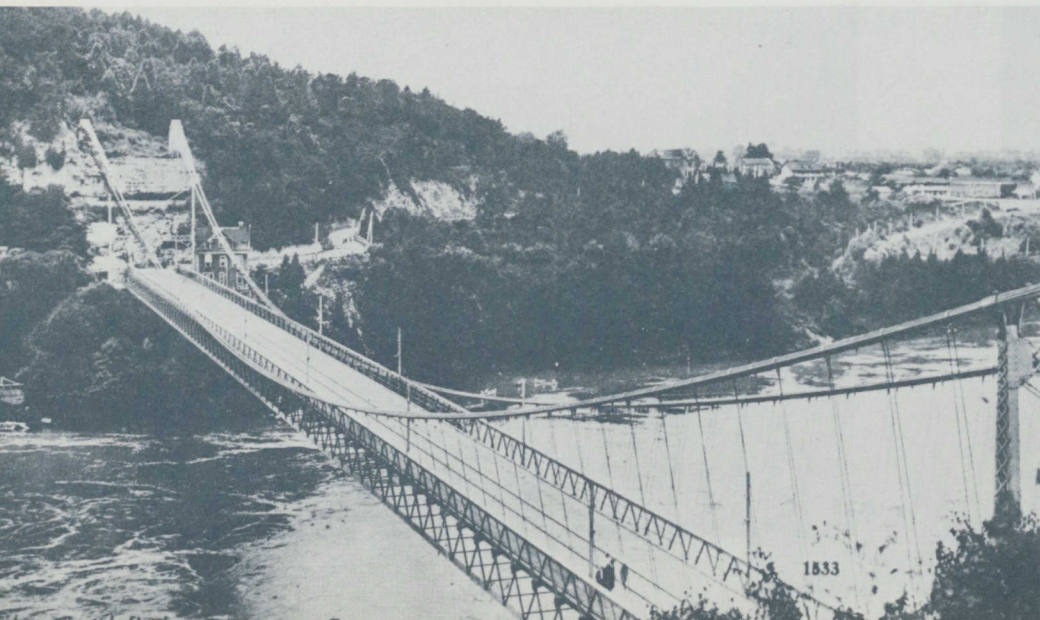
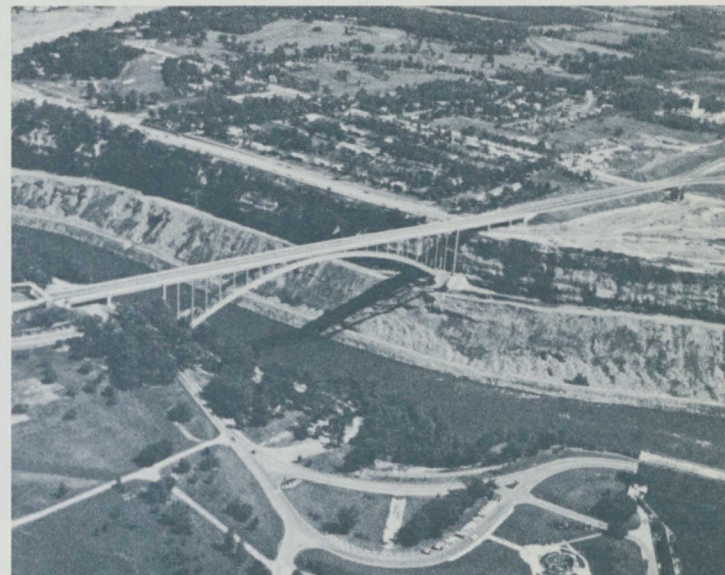
BRIDGES

Before the mid-nineteenth century, people crossed the Niagara River by canoes and other small boats or by ice bridges in the winter. At various sites on the River, ferries operated on regular schedules. The first suspension bridge, connecting Niagara Falls, New York, and Niagara Falls, Ontario, was built in 1848 and was for carriage and pedestrian traffic. This was replaced in 1855 by a two-level Railway Suspension Bridge. The present Whirlpool Rapids Steel Arch Bridge was constructed in 1897; it actually was built under the Suspension Bridge so that traffic could continue uninterrupted.

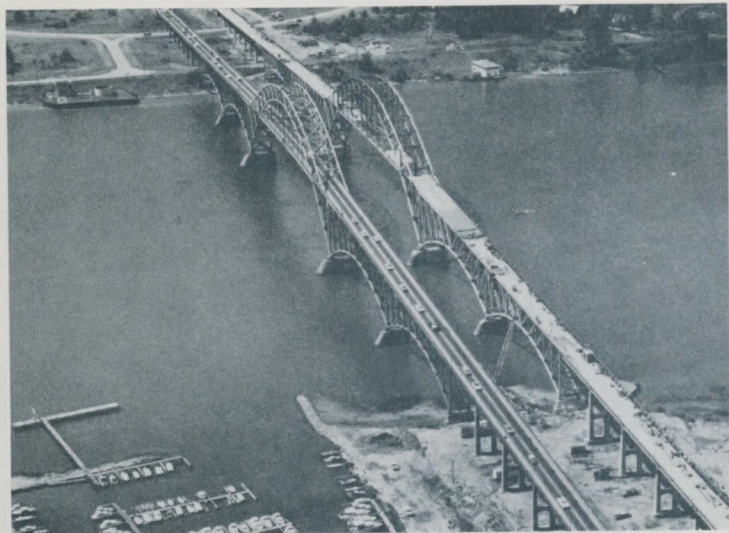


Opposite — Top left, in order to support the weight of streetcars, the Upper Steel Arch Bridge was built in 1897-1898 to replace the New Suspension Bridge; lower left, this bridge, popularly called the Honeymoon Bridge, was torn from its moorings by a massive ice jam in January 1938; top right, it was replaced in 1941 by the 1,450 ft. Rainbow Bridge; lower right, view of the American Falls and the Rainbow Bridge.

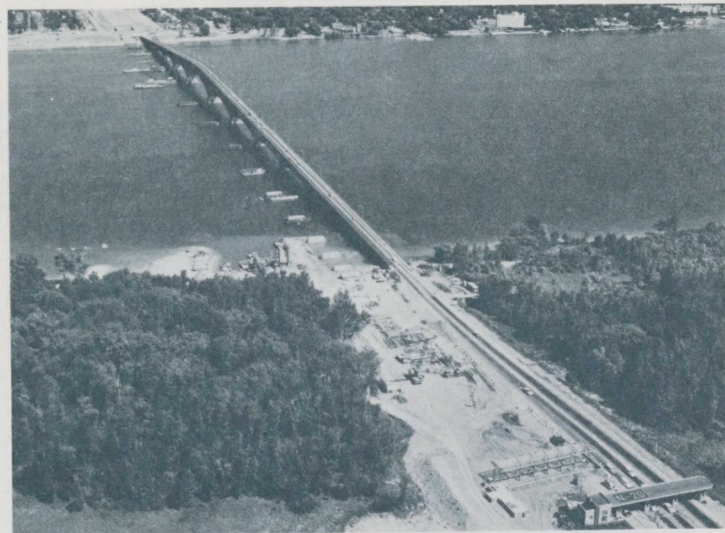
Department of Highways, Ontario



Left: Around 1851, a suspension bridge was constructed between Lewiston, New York, and Queenston, Ontario, that was later destroyed by the wind. In 1898, the Suspension Bridge that was near the Falls was dismantled and placed at this spot. Above: On November 1, 1962, a new Arch Bridge similar in design to the Rainbow Bridge, was built about a mile south of the previous bridge, which was then torn down.



South Grand Island Bridge, above and below.



North Grand Island Bridge, above and below.





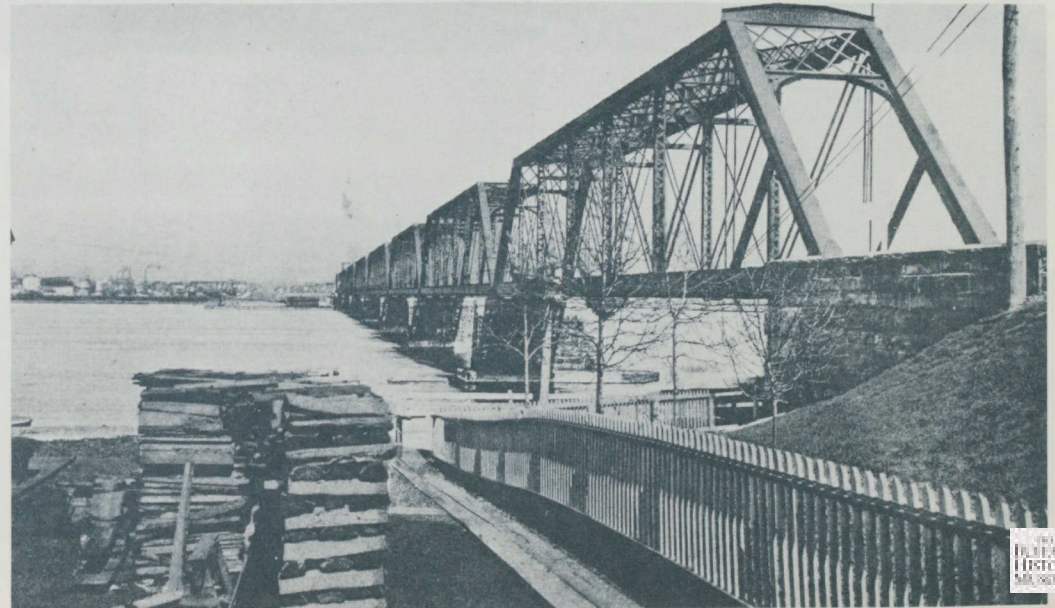
The Peace Bridge

There are two bridges for railroads only, one at Niagara Falls and the other at Buffalo. In Niagara Falls, near the Whirlpool Rapids Bridge, the Cantilever Railroad Bridge was constructed in 1883. Heavier engines necessitated the construction in 1925 of the present double-track steel arch bridge. The Canadian-owned and operated International Bridge, built between Fort Erie and Buffalo, opened in 1873.

International Railroad Bridge, Buffalo to Fort Erie.

Grand Island, in 1935, was finally connected to the American mainland by two bridges. The South Bridge, connecting the Island to Tonawanda, spans 2,000 feet across the river, and the North Bridge, going to Niagara Falls, is 4,000 feet long.

The Peace Bridge, connecting Buffalo and Fort Erie, opened in 1927 and stands as a reminder of more than one hundred years of peace between the nations following the War of 1812.



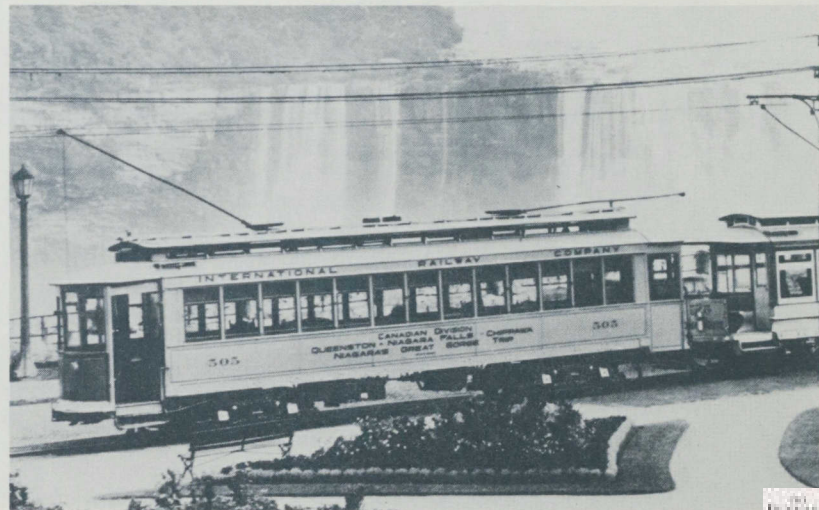


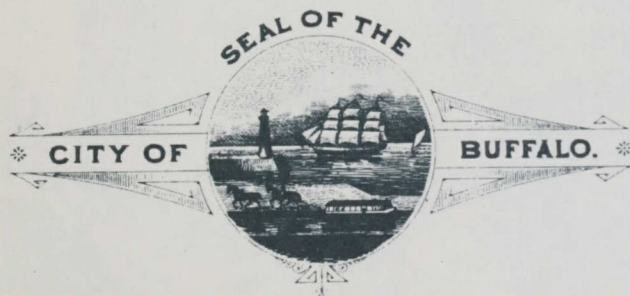
Above: The Cantilever Railroad Bridge was constructed in 1883 in front of the Whirlpool Rapids Steel Arch Bridge. Right: Another Railroad Bridge was built in 1925 in front of the Whirlpool Rapids Steel Arch Bridge in the same location. Opposite — Top, the Niagara Belt Line offered sightseers tours around and through the Niagara Gorge; lower left, special car on the Belt Line, 1901; lower right, International Railway Company Niagara Great Gorge trip, 1927.



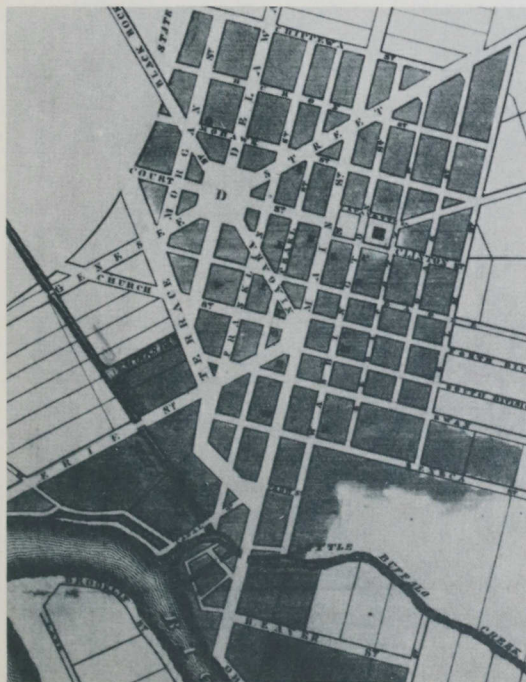


Niagara Mohawk Power Co.





Map of Buffalo, January 1, 1828



Buffalo Harbor

BUFFALO

Following the Revolution, Seneca Indians occupied this area, known as the Buffalo Creek Reservation. In 1801, the Holland Land Company opened up Western New York to homesteaders, creating the town of New Amsterdam which quickly became known as Buffalo. The village was burned by the British in the War of 1812, but by 1815, the industrious citizens of Buffalo had rebuilt the settlement, and it was incorporated the following year. The opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 brought a prosperous, enterprising era to Buffalo. It became a major railroad and industrial center based on its excellent geographical location.

BLACK ROCK

Before 1800, the usual route between Buffalo Creek and the Falls was on the Canadian side, crossing at Black Rock. The "black rock" was a large dark stone jutting into the Niagara River at School Avenue, creating a natural harbor and wharf. It was blasted to make way for the Erie Canal in 1825. A ferry operated from this point during the Revolutionary War period and into the nineteenth century. The shipyards of Black Rock produced schooners, steamboats, and later, canal boats. Early in the 1800s, Black Rock competed with Buffalo for the site of the western terminus of the Erie Canal. It lost that fight and in



Riverside Park



Pedestrian overpass from Riverside to bank of the River.

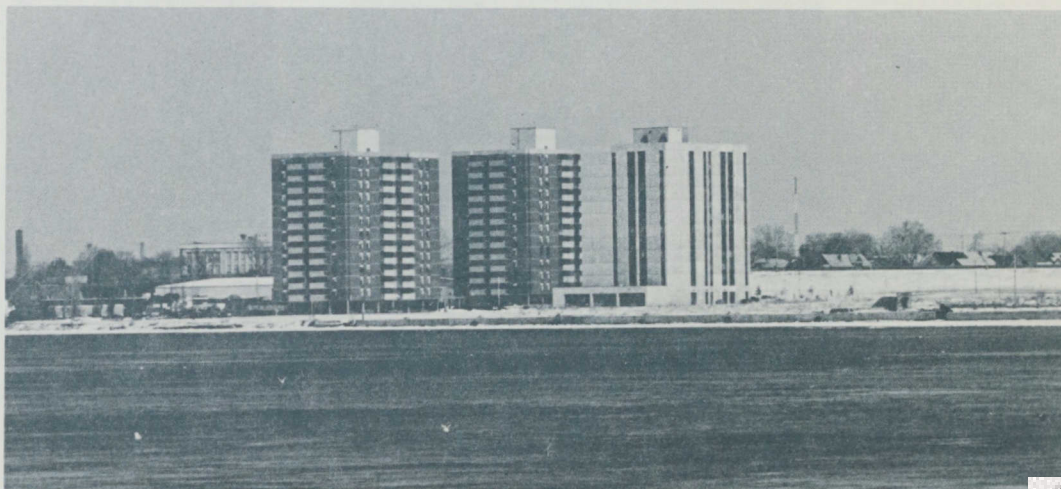


Piece of the original Black Rock.

was incorporated into the City of Buffalo. During and before the Civil War, Black Rock was a key station for slaves escaping to Canada on the Underground Railroad.

RIVERSIDE

A period of growth in the community occurred following the Pan-American Exposition, when hundreds of homes were built of wood taken from demolished Exposition buildings. The Niagara River has always been an important asset to the community providing recreation and open space as an attraction to businesses and settlers.



Watgate Apartments

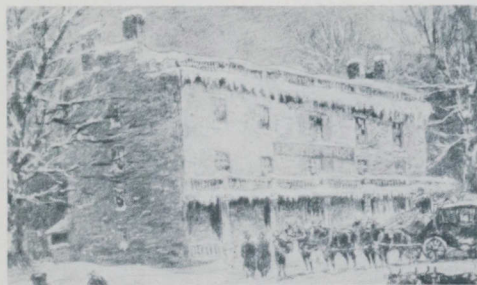
G. P. Putnam's Sons



Youngstown

YOUNGSTOWN

Youngstown was settled by Americans near Fort Niagara after the area was captured from the British in 1796. Named after John Young, a British shopkeeper, the town prospered from its variety of industries: oak lumber, shipbuilding, wheat crops, flour mills, and tanneries.



Frontier House

LEWISTON

Lewiston was originally called Lower Landing as it had a superior landing which led to its importance as a trade center. The opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 ended Lewiston's career as a busy portage, and today the town is largely residential.

Historical Association of Lewiston



Lewiston street scene.

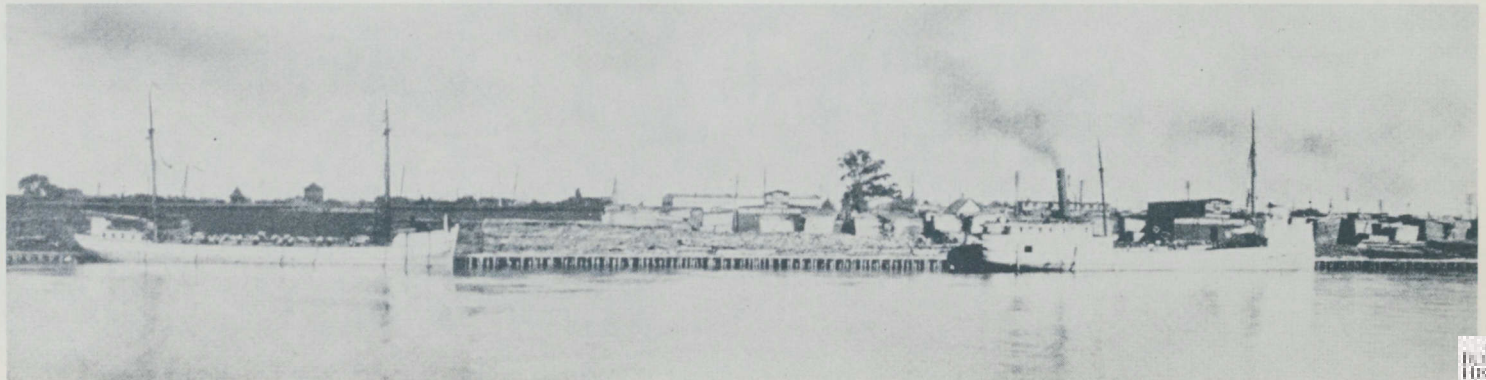
THE TONAWANDAS

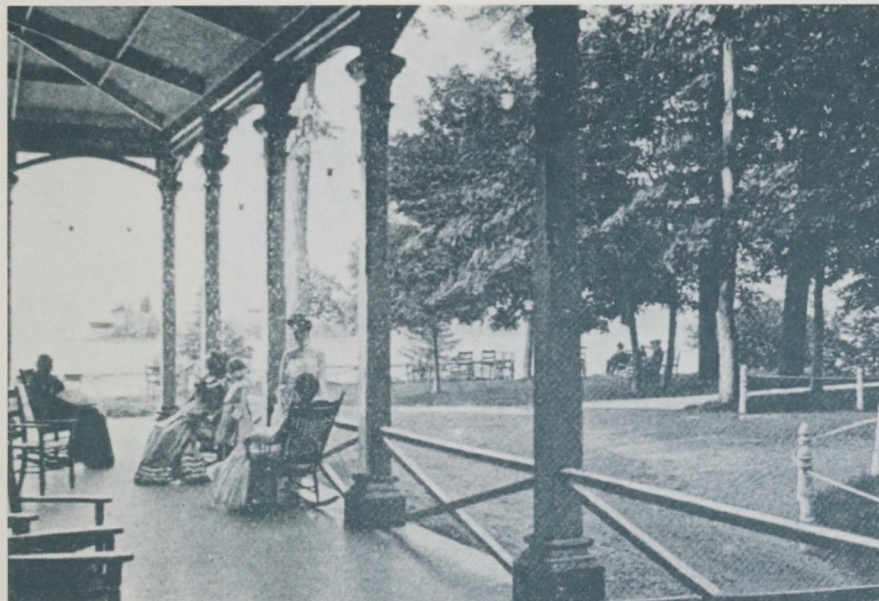
Tonawanda is a Seneca word meaning "rough stream or current," referring to Tonawanda Creek. Bounded by Niagara Falls on the north, Lockport on the east, Buffalo on the south, and the Niagara River on the west, the Tonawandas include the present cities of North Tonawanda and Tonawanda, and the Town of Tonawanda. This area was the pivotal point for incoming lumber and iron from other Great Lakes cities producing iron and outgoing merchandise to New York City. Tonawandas' factories handling steel, steam pumps, merry-go-rounds, juke boxes, boats, bricks, and tile depended greatly on the electric power generated by Niagara Falls. At the turn of the century, the Tonawandas were considered providers of limitless resources for industry, which kept Buffalo and its outlying areas growing.



Above: Aerial view of cities of Tonawanda and North Tonawanda.

Below: Along the lumber docks, North Tonawanda.





View from the porch of the Queen's Royal Hotel.

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

First known as Butlersburg in 1780 in honor of Colonel John Butler of Butler's Rangers, the town later became Newark and was the principal center of the white population in Upper Canada. During the War of 1812, Newark and Fort George were captured by the Americans, and in 1813, American Brig. Gen. George McClure set fire to the village, turning 400 civilians out of their homes. The British recaptured the town and Fort George. In retaliation, the British burned United States towns and villages along the river.

QUEENSTON

In 1792, Queenston was little more than a stop on the new portage route which was crowded with ox teams transporting goods for the upper-lakes trade. It is thought that Queenston was once the site of the falls of the Niagara River.

Harper & Brothers, Publishers



Queenston in 1812



Grand Island

THE ISLANDS

GRAND ISLAND was called La Grande Isle by the French traders. It was purchased by New York State from the Senecas in 1815 and became Grand Island. In 1825, the island was sold to private investors for development. The good supply of white oak contributed to the building of the world's largest sawmill which operated until the 1840s. There were many exclusive clubs, estates, and summer resorts on the island before bridges connected it to Tonawanda and Niagara Falls.

SQUAW ISLAND was presented by the Seneca Nation to Captain Parrish, their favorite Indian agent and interpreter, as an acknowledgement of his services on their behalf. The Captain sold the island to Henry F. Penfield in 1823.

Harper & Brothers, Publishers

FORT ERIE

When the Erie Canal opened in 1825, the focus of Great Lakes trade shifted to the American side of the River, and the town of Fort Erie suffered. Until the opening of a railway bridge just north of the village in 1873, car ferries carried trains from Fort Erie to Buffalo. Today, more cars travel back and forth across the Peace Bridge to the entry point at Fort Erie than at any other single point on the Canadian-American border.



Ruins of Fort Erie, 1860

NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO

Formerly known as Clifton, Niagara Falls, Canada, was originally settled by Loyalists following the American Revolution. It thrives on the tourist trade, much like its counterpart in the United States. Popular hotels were built almost on the verge of the Falls near Table Rock. Today, park land occupies much of the land adjacent to the Falls.

NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK

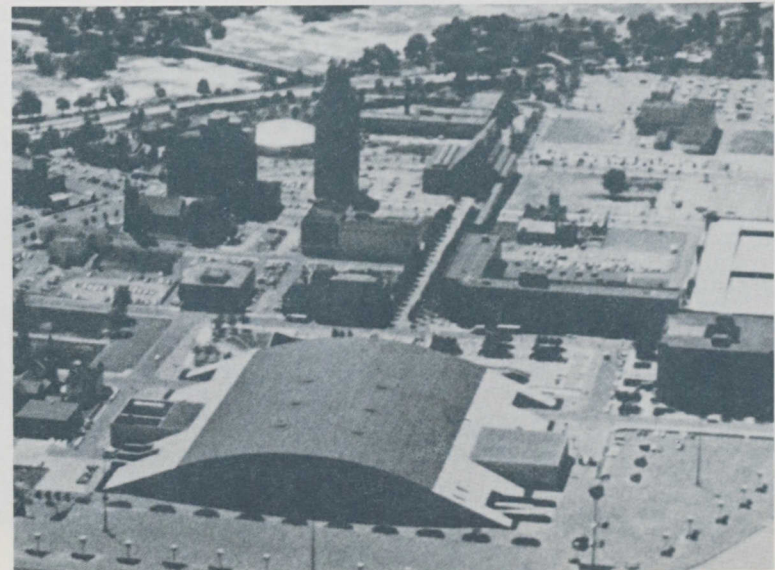
By 1812, the future city of Niagara Falls, then known as Manchester, had ten or twelve houses, including that of Augustus Porter, who had built several factories and businesses in the area. In 1813, the town was destroyed by fire in the same British invasion that left Buffalo, Black Rock, and Lewiston in ruins.

When Niagara Falls was incorporated in 1848, its population was almost 3,000, and it thrived on tourism. Several fine hotels, like the Cataract House, accommodated the tourists and honeymooners who flocked to the town as it prospered and grew. Soon Niagara Falls began to depend on manufacturing to supplement its financial needs. Industries were revolutionized by the development of Niagara power, not only in the city of Niagara Falls but throughout the Niagara Frontier as well.



Above: Restaurant in Queen Victoria Park, Niagara Falls, Ontario.

Below: Downtown Niagara Falls, New York.



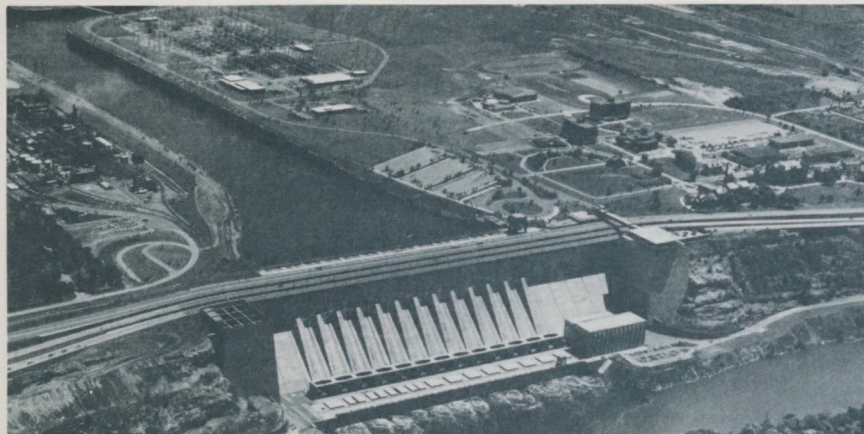


WATER POWER

Early in the eighteenth century, Chabert Joncaire constructed a water-driven sawmill near Niagara Falls, the beginning of an important tradition to utilize the natural power of the cataracts. In 1805, two brothers, Augustus and Peter Porter, built mills harnessing the River's water to produce hydro-electric power. Lacking enough money, the Porters were unable to transport this power out of the Niagara Falls vicinity. After 1825, the new Erie Canal substituted its water power for that of the Niagara. The opening of each lock on the canal created a gush of water that produced power.

In 1848, the New York State legislature authorized use of the River for manufacturing. Augustus Porter's family offered land to the organizers of the Niagara Falls Hydraulic Company in 1853. Its successor company was auctioned to Jacob Schoellkopf in 1877. Schoellkopf organized another company and was the first to make use of generators for power.

The Sir Adam Beck Generating Station, Ontario, Canada, left, south of the Lewiston-Queenston Bridge. The Robert Moses Parkway and Robert Moses Generating Plant at lower right, on the American side of the River.

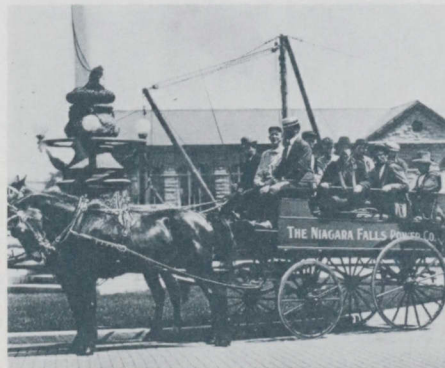


Buffalo received its first electrical power in 1896 after transmittal problems were ironed out. The Pan-American Exposition of 1901 showed new ways for home and industry to use Buffalo's unlimited supply of electricity.

Federal legislation soon limited the water supply that could be diverted from the Falls for commercial use. Not until

Top: Moses Plant, towards the reservoir, and Niagara University to the right. Center: The Niagara Falls Power Company developed power on both sides of the river. Lower left: Huntley Plant of the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation. Lower right: collapse of the Schoellkopf Power Company plant, 1956.

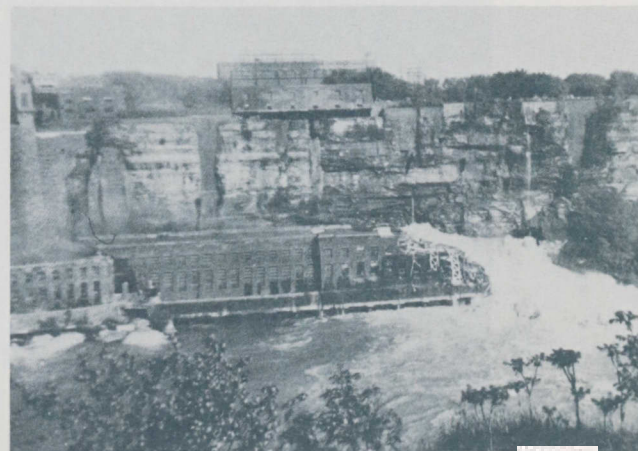
NIAGARA GAZETTE



NIAGARA GAZETTE

World War II did the demand for power surpass what the Niagara could produce. However, the Niagara region today houses some of the world's largest water-powered generating stations which supply the bulk of the power needed in the highly-industrialized area surrounding both sides of the River.

U.S. - Canadian agreements seeking to prevent the slow erosion of the Falls while creating more water power made it possible for the Adam Beck Power Plant No. 1 to open in 1921, Adam Beck No. 2 in 1958, and the Robert Moses Niagara Power Plant in 1961.



A TRANSFER JUNCTION

Commerce and industry developed in Buffalo to take advantage of the city's geographic location between the Upper Great Lakes and the Erie Canal. Consequently, Buffalo became a transfer junction, first for emigrants moving West and later for manufactured goods going West and commodities including grain,



Left: International Railroad Bridge, Fort Erie to Buffalo.
Below: Lumber docks in Twin Cities (Tonawanda and North Tonawanda), 1912.

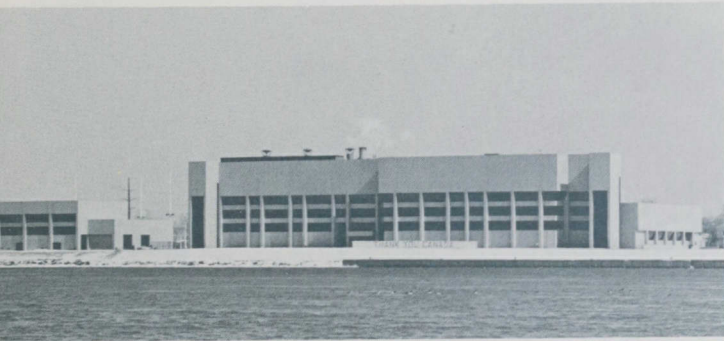


Above: George H. Notter, Shipbuilder, Buffalo.

Right: Sugar cargo being unloaded at Barge Canal Terminal, Buffalo, 1937.



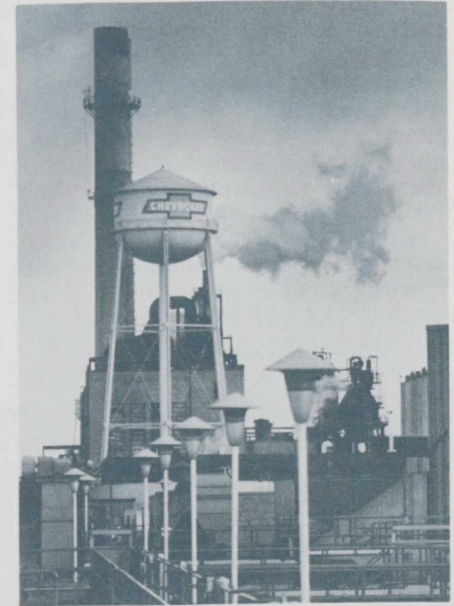
INDUSTRIES



lumber, and livestock going East. Joseph Dart's invention of the steam-powered grain elevator in 1842 helped to make Buffalo a leading grain storage depot and milling center. In the lumber trade, John Noyes developed a lake barge which ensured the area's future as a forwarding center and wholesale market for pine,

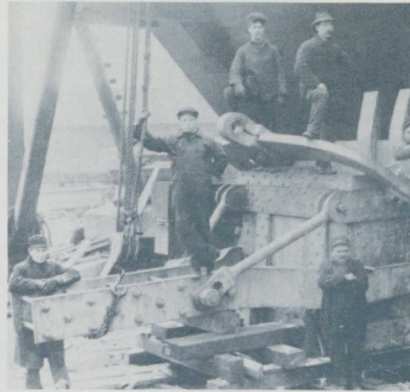


Left: Buffalo Sewer Authority plant, Bird Island. Center: FMC Corporation, Tonawanda. Right: Chevrolet River Road plant, Tonawanda. Below: Industrial complex along River Road, Tonawanda.

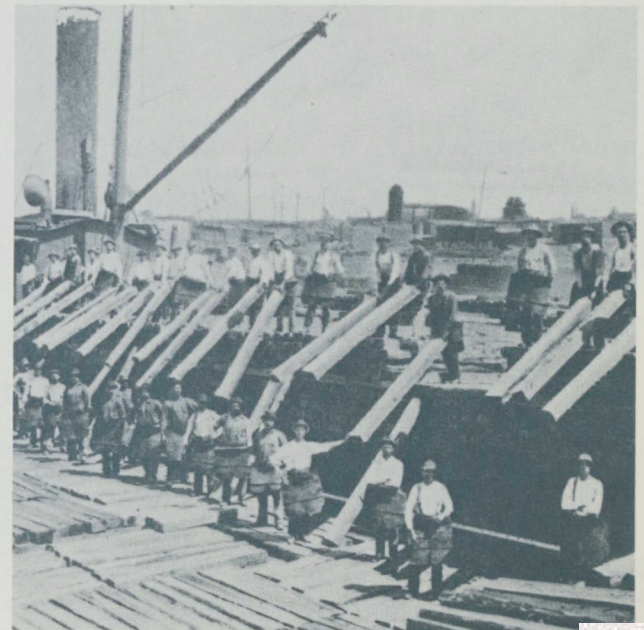


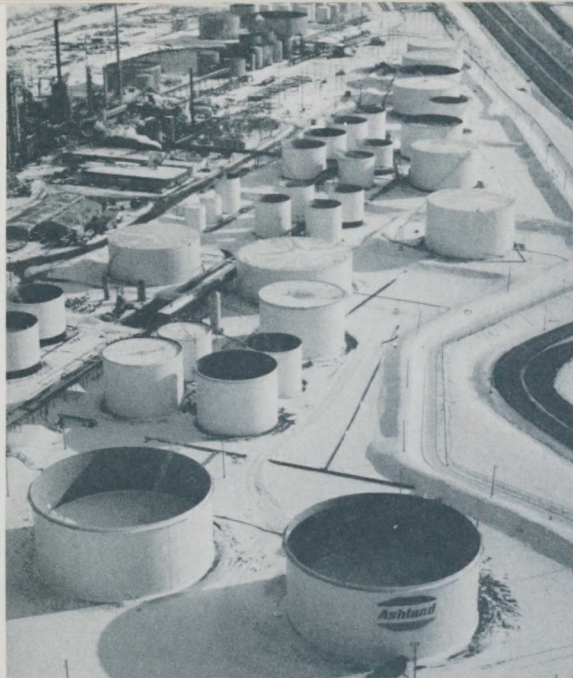
AND SERVICES

hemlock, and hardwood. As railroad companies, too, recognized the area's superb geographic position, they brought coal and livestock trade. The shipping and railroad interests also spawned related manufacturing, including leather tanning and iron works. Similarly, the development of hydroelectric power at Niagara Falls gave rise to a burgeoning chemical industry. By 1900, heavy manufacturing and industry had come to Buffalo to take advantage of the unique transportation facilities. Steel, automobile, and aircraft production became important during the twentieth century.

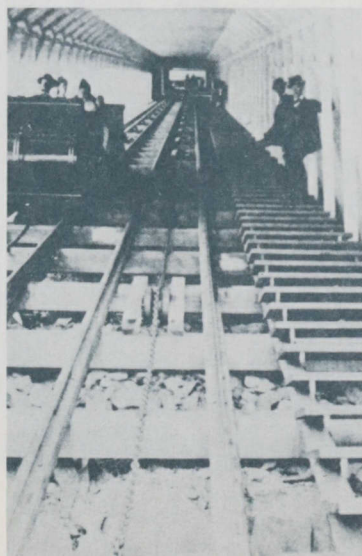


Left: Laying water pipe, 1890. Lower left: Tonawanda-North Tonawanda harbor. Center: Flour milling employee. Right: Unloading lumber in Twin Cities (Tonawanda-North Tonawanda), 1908.





Left: Ashland Refinery, Tonawanda. Below: Shredded Wheat Co., Division of Nabisco, Niagara Falls. Lower left: Jafco Marina, Buffalo. Lower center: Incline Railroad, Niagara Falls. Lower right: Carborundum Company, Niagara Falls.



Power Authority of the State of New York



Above: Industrial area along the River, Niagara Falls, showing power intakes at the top of the view. The Edward Dean Adams station, first central alternating current generating station in the world, in center of view.

Maple Leaf Village



Left: Maple Leaf Village, Niagara Falls, Ontario

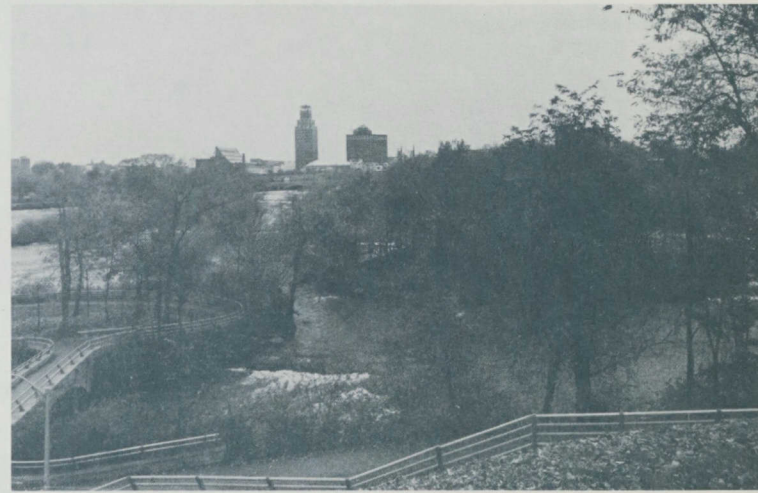


Niagara University



Left: Niagara University.

Below: Niagara Falls from the Robert Moses Parkway.



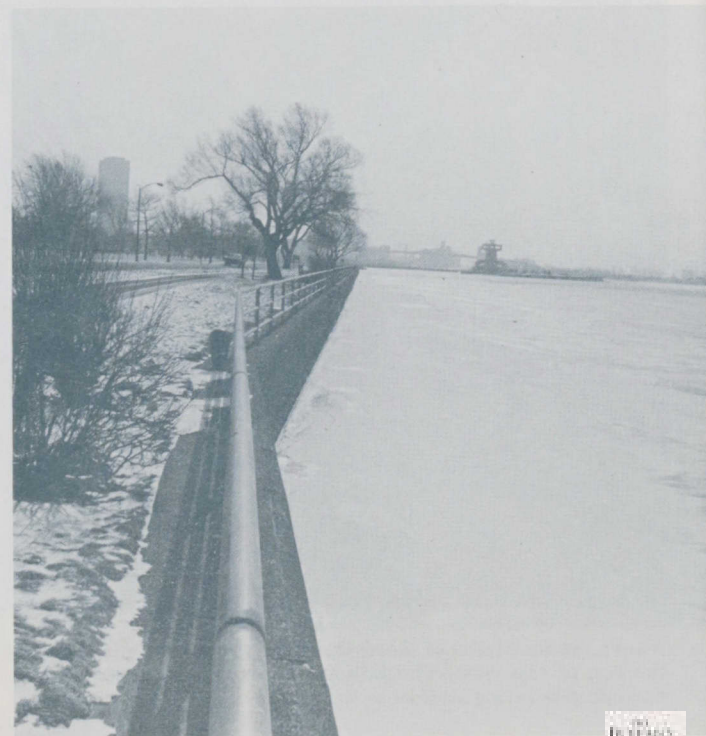


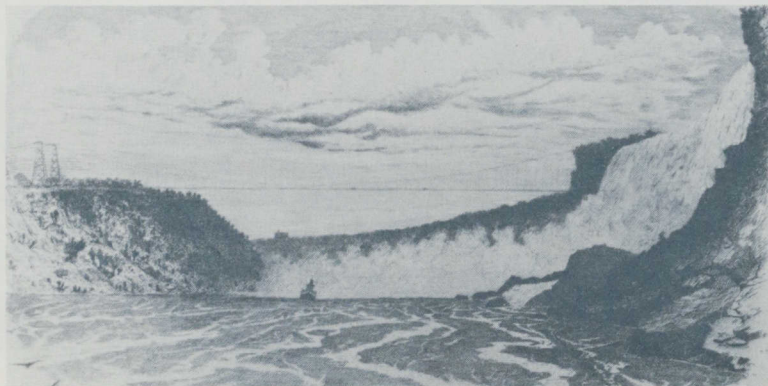
Left and below: Thruway looking toward Erie Basin Marina. Opposite — Top left, boating on the River; top right, Buffalo Yacht Club; lower left, *Maid of the Mist*; lower right, wading across the Old Mill Race at Fort Erie.

RESORTS AND RECREATION

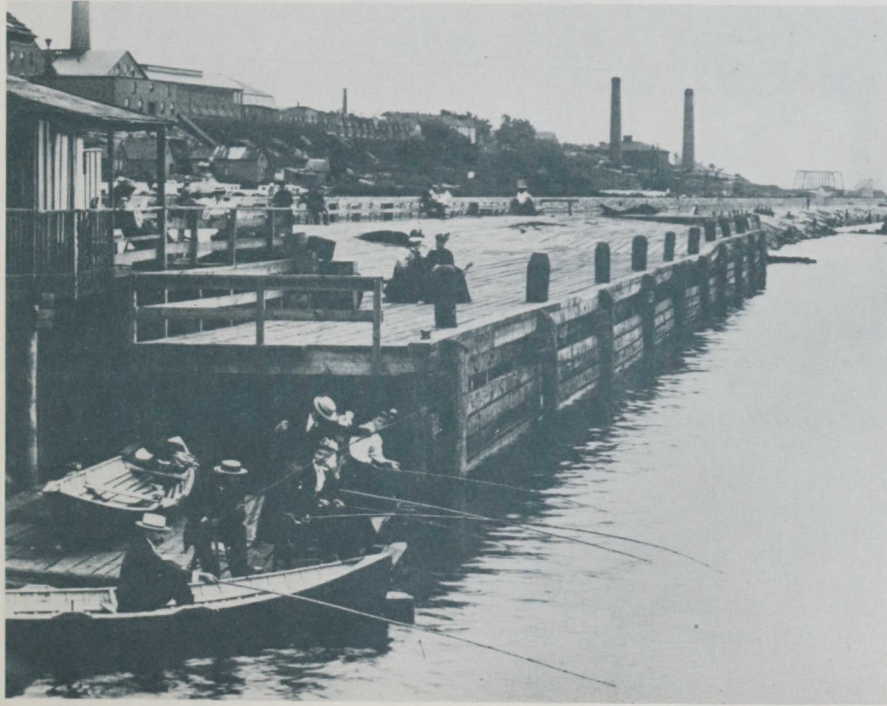
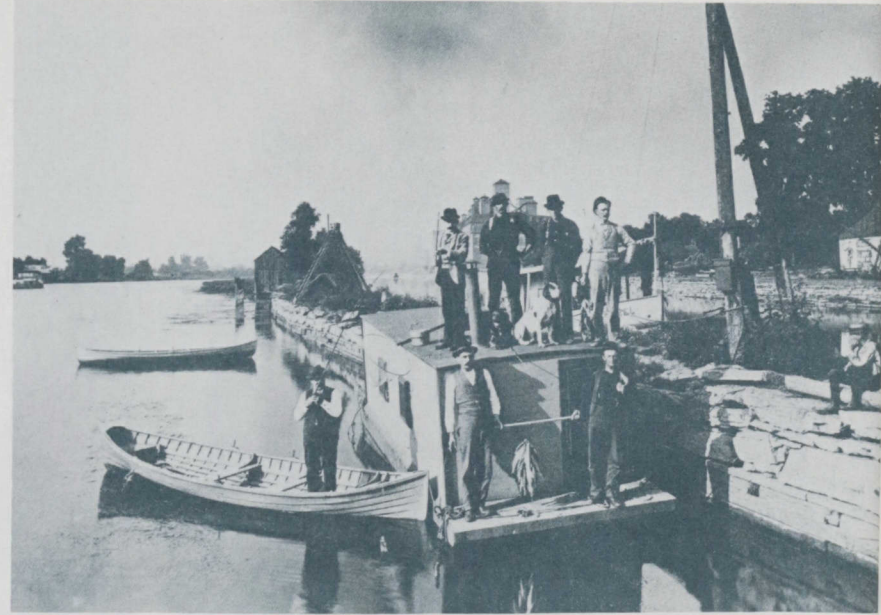
The Niagara River provides the setting for many vacation and recreational activities. Fishing, honeymooning, boating, skiing — the Niagara playgrounds bring tourists swarming to the Falls and River for all kinds of sports and pastimes.

The beauty of the region and the climate were thought to be healthful by early tourists. Many resorts sprang up to house the growing number of tourists. The Cataract House, built in 1814, was probably the most popular of the area hotels until it was destroyed by fire in 1945. Ferries brought tourists to the Bedell House on Grand Island from 1877 until it, too, burned in 1935.





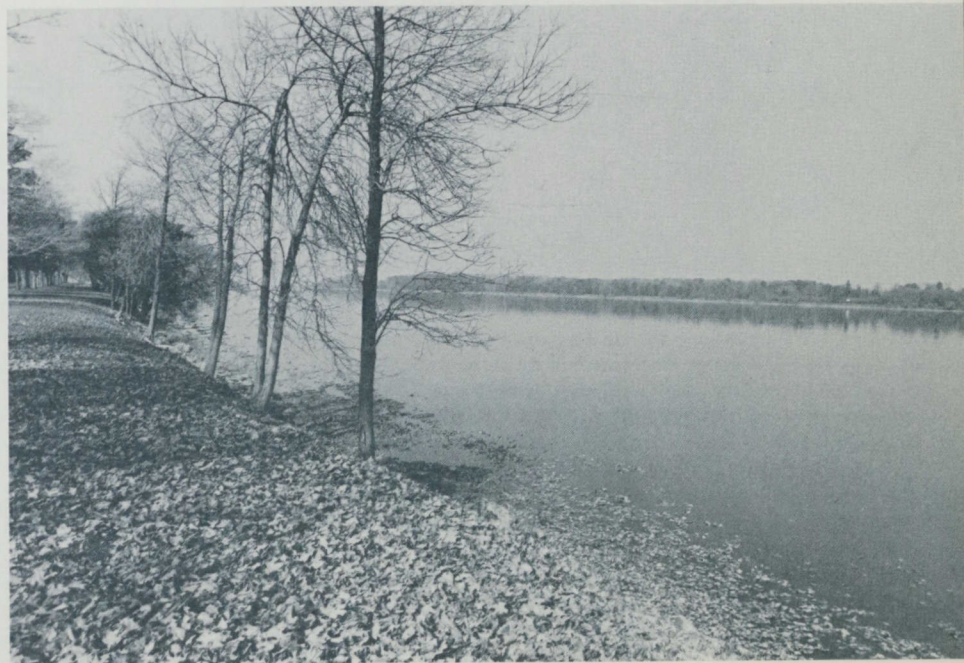
A. W. Sangster

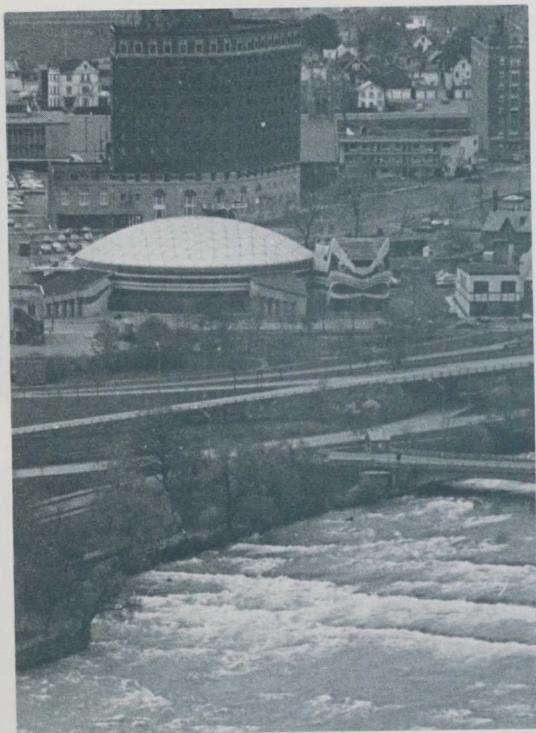


BUFFALO EVENING NEWS



Opposite — Top left, Beaver Island State Park; top right, Black Rock Harbor on left, Erie Canal on right, ca. 1900; lower left, Bird Island pier, Black Rock, 1898; lower right, municipal skating rink, Buffalo. Top right: At one of the beaches on the river. Lower left: Beaver Island State Park, Grand Island, 1960. Lower right: Canadian shore, overlooking Navy Island.





Above: Turtle Museum, of the Native American Center for the Living Arts, Inc., Niagara Falls. Top right: Skylon observatory tower, Niagara Falls, Ontario. Lower right: Youngstown marina.





RECREATION ON THE LOWER RIVER

Left: Fishing on the ice bridge, Niagara Falls, ca. 1890. Below: Jean-Francois Gravelet, "The Great Blondin," crossing the Falls, 1860, with his assistant, Romain Mouton, on his shoulders. Right: Artpark, the only State park for the Arts, Lewiston.



Artpark



Parks and recreational areas developed along the River and near the Falls. Golf, tennis, rowing, yachting, water skiing, and swimming are popular. Convention centers in Buffalo and Niagara Falls, New York, have helped to revitalize their downtown areas, and have housed concerts, plays, auto and boat shows, ethnic festivals, and other events to entertain visitors.

In Lewiston, Artpark welcomes thousands of visitors each summer. Built on the site of a burial ground of the Mound Builder Indians, the park's festivities celebrate performing arts, fine arts, and artisans in a beautiful, natural setting. During the summer at Niagara-on-the-Lake, plays by George B. Shaw and certain other authors are presented at the Shaw Festival.



THE RAPIDS OF THE RIVER

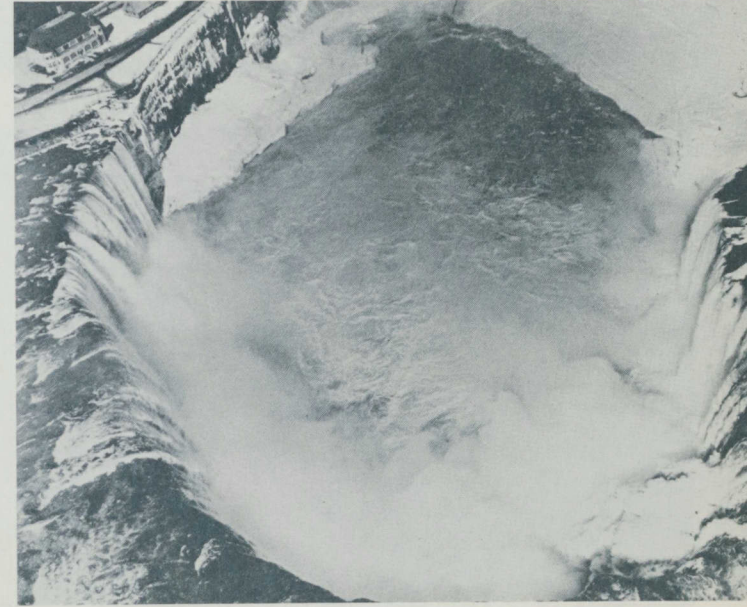


Upper left and upper right:
Rapids of the River above the
Falls. Right: Bath Island paper
mills and Goat Island Bridge.
Opposite — Lower left, Amer-
ican Falls in the winter; lower
right, Horseshoe Falls from
above.





The Niagara River's most famous landmarks are the booming cataracts of Niagara Falls. The Horseshoe, American, and Bridal Veil cataracts plunge into the Niagara Gorge at heights reaching approximately 160 feet with as much as 250,000 cu. feet of water going over per



THE FALLS

second. This massive beauty has its problems, however. Erosion is cutting at the American Falls at the rate of about five feet per year, and the Horseshoe Falls are eroding even more rapidly. Rockslides have occurred over the years, leaving piles of massive stones at the foot of the Falls. The biggest slide dropped 185,000 tons of rock on the Gorge in 1954. In 1969, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers shut off the flow of water to determine the rate of erosion and possible



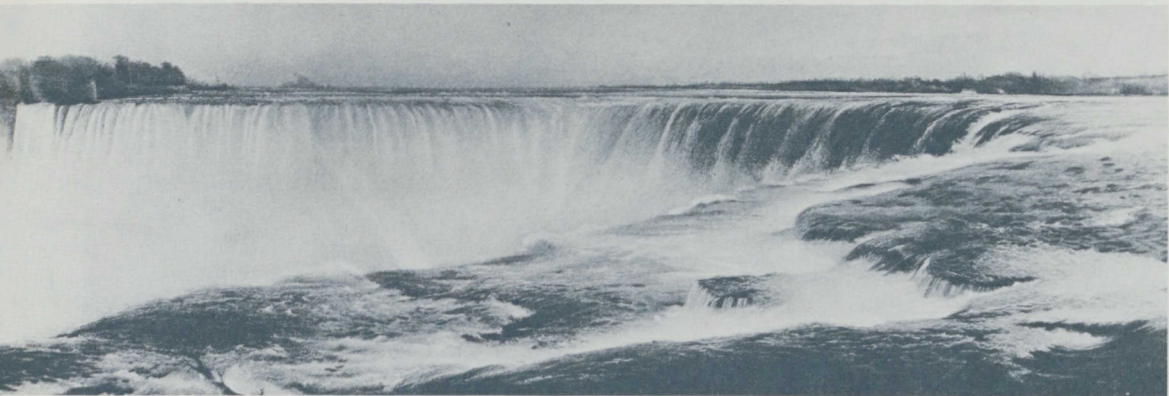
This page: Horseshoe Falls. Opposite: top, Horseshoe Falls; bottom, above and below the American and Canadian Falls, 1893.



Engraver - John Poppel



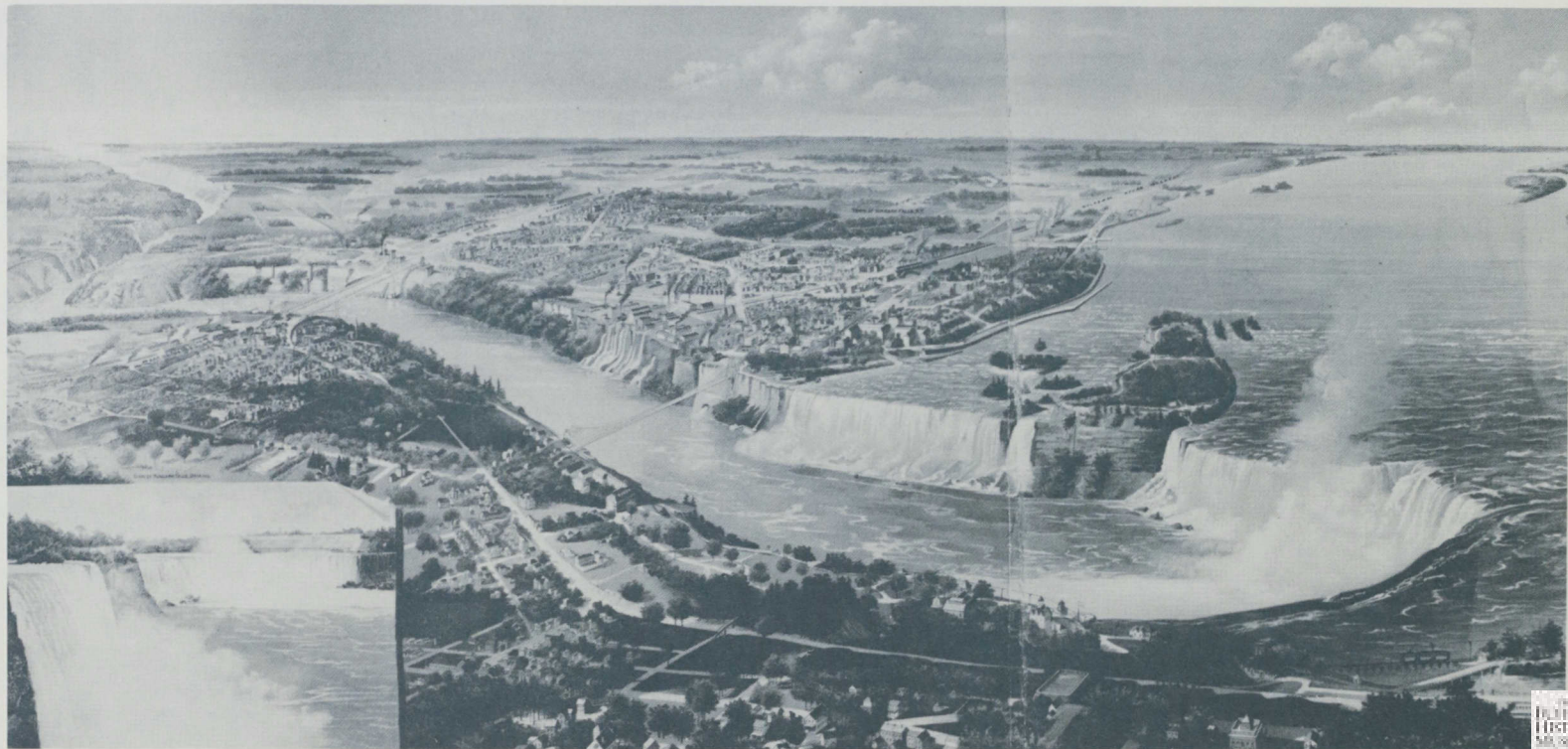
Raphael Beck



Frederick Church

solutions to the problem. Seismic monitors record rock movements, and geologists keep a wary eye out for future rockslides.

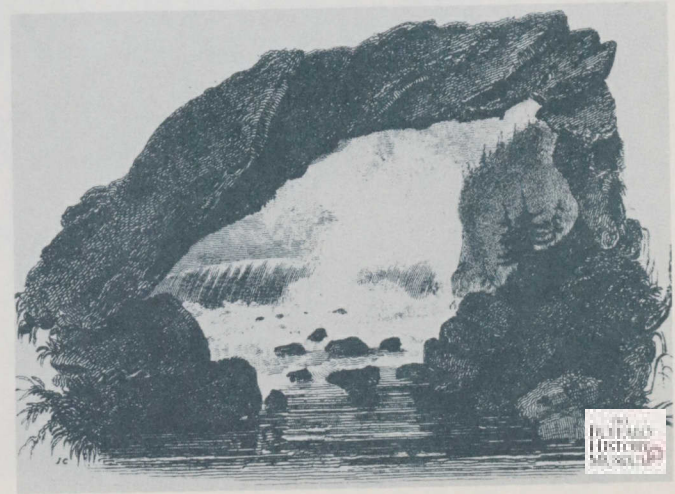
Tourists came to the area shortly after the end of the War of 1812 even though hotel accommodations were primitive. An 1822 guidebook, the "Fashionable Tour" mentioned Niagara Falls. Soon hotels were built on both sides of the River to accommodate the increasing numbers of tourists. At the

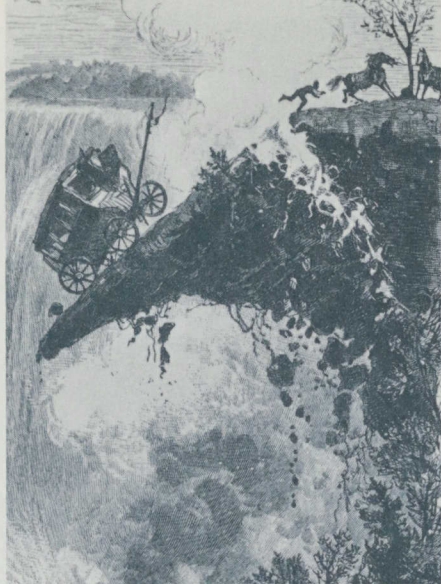


Upper: Prospect Point after 1954 rock fall.
 Lower left and right: Route to Cave of the
 Winds. Opposite — Top left, Fall of Table
 Rock, Niagara Falls, 1850; top right, the
 American Falls; below, beginning of the rock
 fall at Prospect Point, Niagara Falls, 1954.

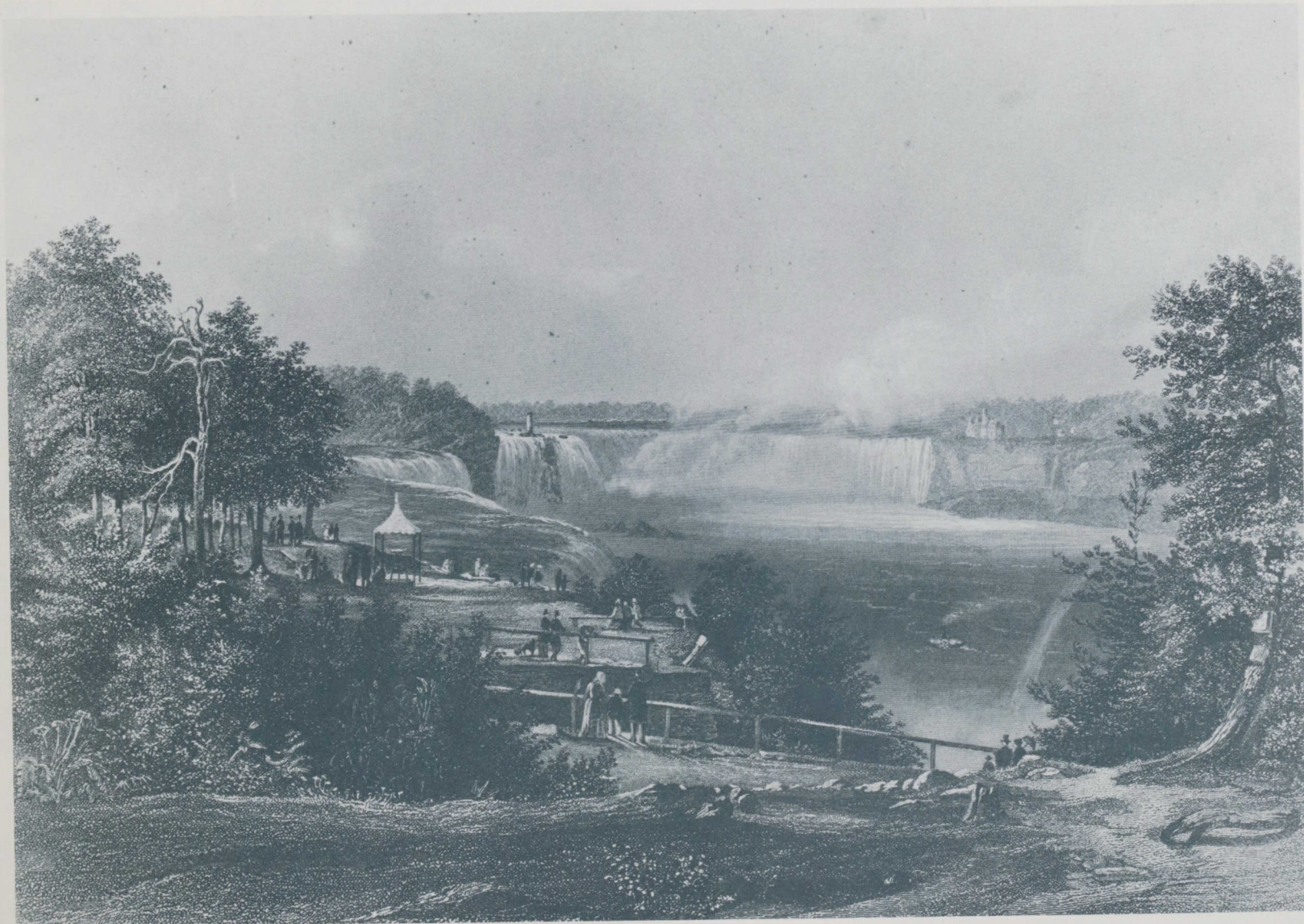


Drawn by T. Maude





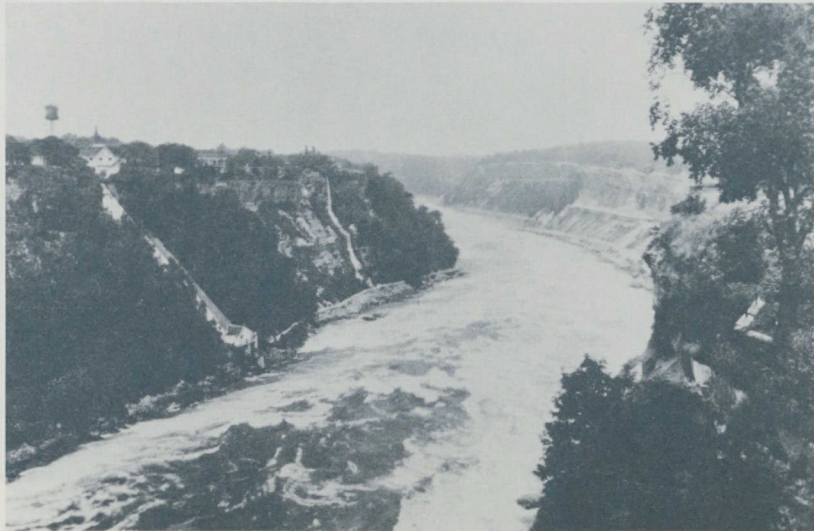
VIEWS FROM ABOVE AND BELOW THE FALLS





turn of the century, travelers could embark on a sightseeing journey along the Gorge via the network of trains which follow the River. Today's tourist can see the area by car or bus, and visit the Falls by foot. Parks and viewing areas line the gorge; a ride on the *Maid of the Mist* gives a special view of the Falls from below.

THE GORGE AND THE WHIRLPOOL



Opposite — *Niagara Falls from the American shore*. Top: Niagara Gorge, below the Falls. Above: The River from Whirlpool State Park. Left: Devil's Hole and elevator near Whirlpool.

Left: *Outlet of the Niagara.*

Below: Lower Niagara River, looking towards Lake Ontario.



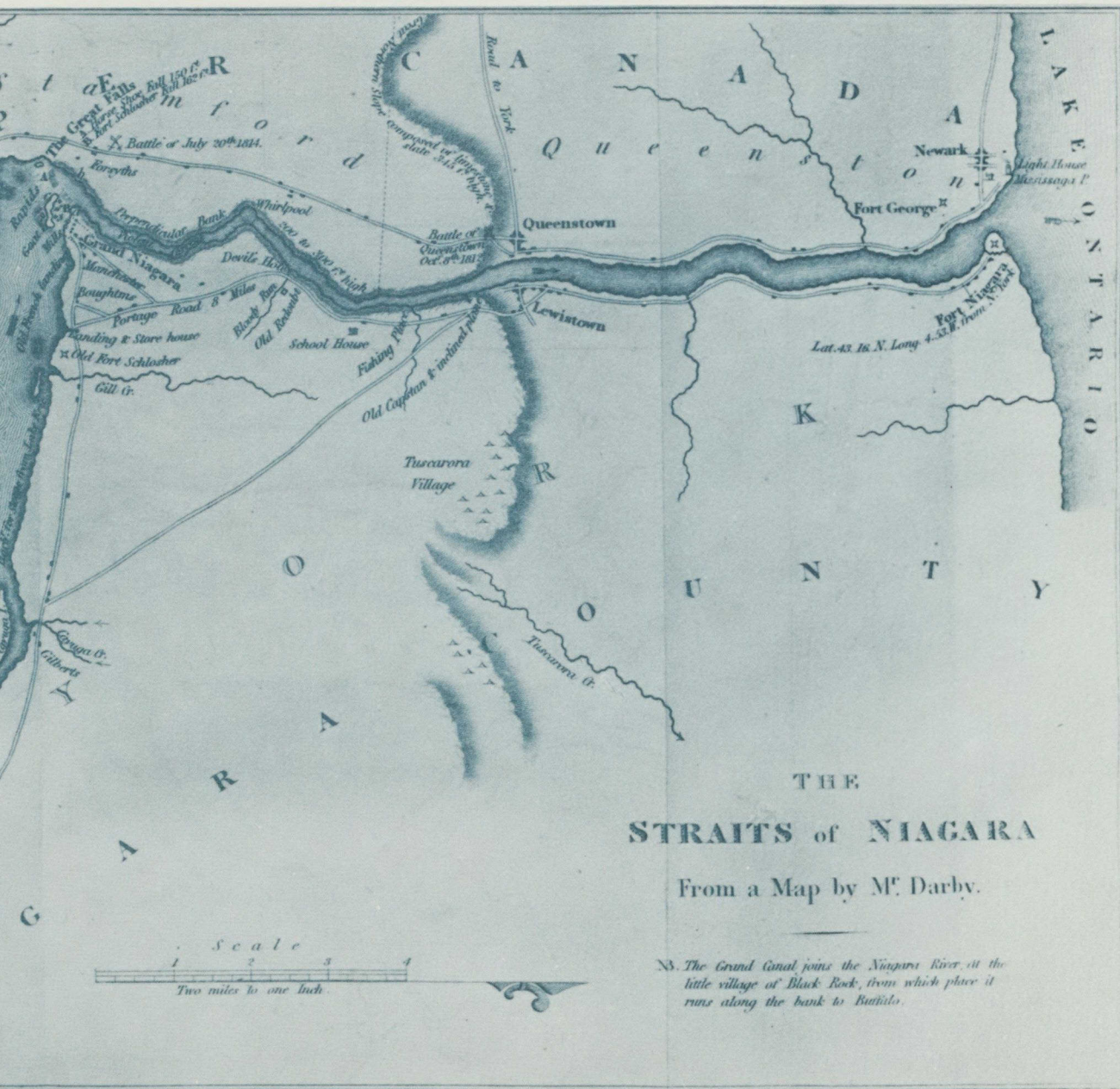
Then, when I felt how near to my Creator I was standing, the first effect, and the enduring one — instant and lasting — of the tremendous spectacle, was Peace. Peace of Mind, tranquility, calm recollections of the Dead, great thoughts

of Eternal Rest and Happiness: nothing of gloom or terror. Niagara was at once stamped upon my heart, an Image of Beauty; to remain there, changeless and indelible, until its pulses cease to beat, for ever.

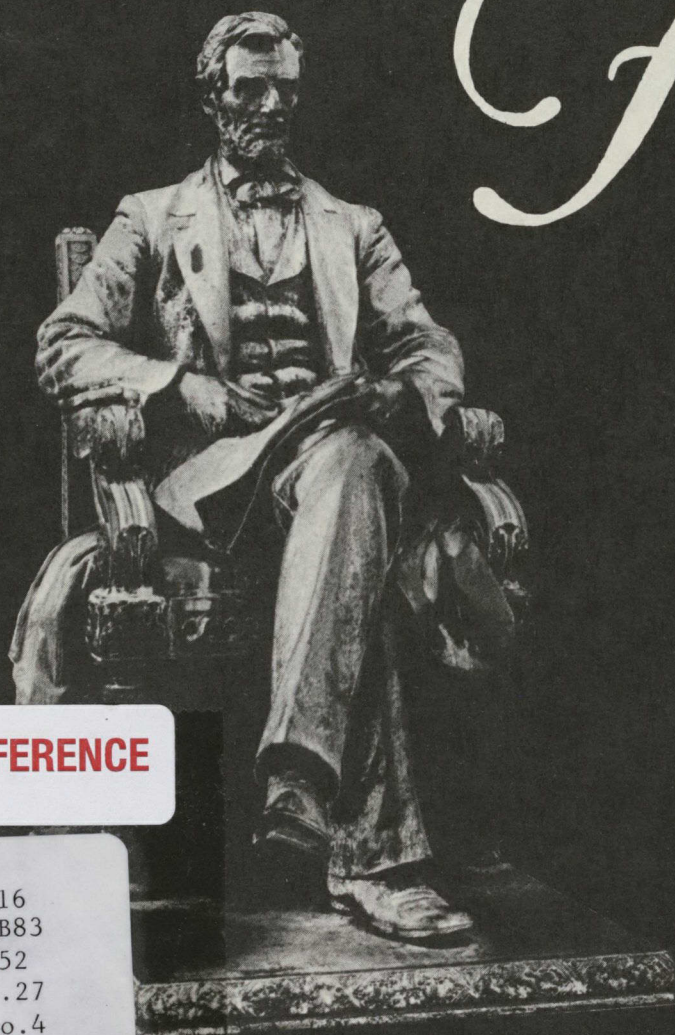
From the travel notes of Charles Dickens, written during a visit to the Falls.



Niagara by Harry Fenn



Niagara Frontier



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BUFFALO AND ERIE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOL. XXVII No. 4



COVER

Statue of Abraham Lincoln on portico, Historical Building.

Niagara Frontier

Published by the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society
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Robert L. Damm, Editor

Proceedings of the 119th Annual Meeting

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
DIRECTOR'S REPORT
EXHIBITS and EVENTS — 1980
RED JACKET MEDAL
PRESENTATION
RESPONSE

*Robert B. Meech
Robert L. Damm*

*George F. Goodyear
Frank G. Evans, M.D.
and Lydia T. Wright, M.D.*

ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS *I. Frank Mogavero, Ph.D.*
Report of the Committee on Markers I. Frank Mogavero, Ph.D.
Awards

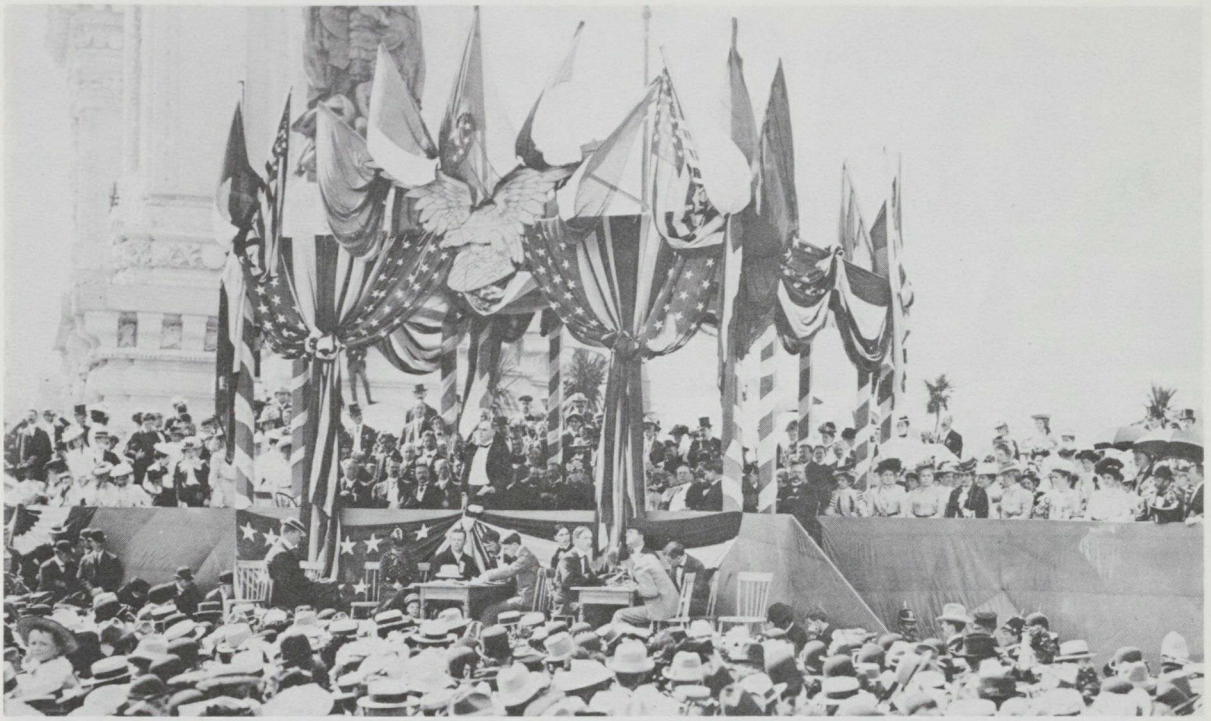
Owen B. Augspurger Award
Daniel B. Niederlander Award
Buffalo Naval and Servicemen's Park, Inc. Citation
Erie County Fair Awards

MEMBERSHIP

You are welcome to membership in the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society whatever your interests may be, whether as a reader, collector, writer, or simply as a believer in our work. Yearly membership dues, as of January 1980, are: Corporate, \$100, \$200, \$300, \$400, \$500; Life, \$300; Sustaining, \$35; Annual, \$20; Associate members of affiliated chapters as follows — Military History Chapter, \$20; Civil War Round Table, \$14.50; Medical History Society, \$25; Lower Lakes Marine Chapter, \$20; Landmark Society of the Niagara Frontier, \$20; W.N.Y. Popular Culture Society, \$15. We shall be happy to hear from you; you may call 873-9644 for further information.

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President's Message

by Robert B. Meech

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HISTORICAL

In the history business, a year, and this is our 118th, goes by so quickly it is hard to find it any different from another. Looking back at our last Annual Meeting, we had just spent a year searching for a new Director, and we found him, Mr. Robert Damm. With great pleasure, we have installed him and worked with him in the year gone by. Meanwhile, Lester Smith, our longtime Associate Director, kept the museum on a steady course for the second time and aided in the transmission and transition of leadership to Mr. Damm.

Soon, new energies were released, and offices and gift shop were shifted. I think, as you come in now, you can see a major difference in the hall compared to what existed before. The Board Room, which was never used for any display, now has very special type displays in it, and it represents a great recovery of space. We usually reserve that room for things that have a high degree of security requirement because we can easily control one door. As new accounting procedures were started and as more frequent exhibits of the Society's great collections were installed, you could see the first steps of a master-plan for the '80s unfold. And, presently, audience studies have been made. We have evaluated them all to try and find out if we are doing our job, and what our job should be. And finally, and more importantly, we have in effect a plan to publish a book for Buffalo's Sesquicentennial which will be a beautiful thing, and, hopefully, you will all want to have it in your homes in 1982.

Above: "Visions of the Presidency" Exhibit.

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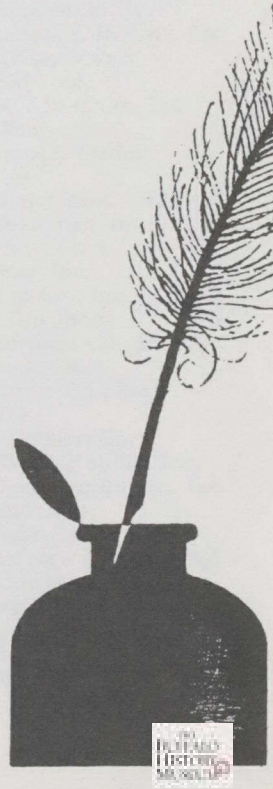
The Charles R. Wilson Presidential Autograph Collection was presented by his son Robert L. Wilson, who served the Society as Treasurer (1955-64 and 1970-76). Left to right: Robert L. Damm, Director; Mr. Wilson; Robert B. Meech, President; and Lester W. Smith, Associate Director.

By summertime, we were seeking new space for storage and expansion. Under Paul Schoellkopf's leadership, we rented office and storage space a half mile from here. Our landlord/tenant is in the audience; I saw him a minute ago. This space will have the net effect of giving us more display room in this building without having to add any outside capital construction space at all. And speaking of construction, the Delaware Park Lake work was carried on this year. It is nearly finished. We have a complete copy of the plans so we are well protected without any difficulty to the Society.

While much of this seems routine, doing what we ought to do, we have all tried a little harder because we were fitting a new man into a new job, or even jobs, as City Historian and County Historian, too, and adapting his styles and techniques to our own. We think he has found support in Board Committees dealing effectively with identified problems and finding their solution; so perhaps our most difficult time is past.

As the day ends, we also want to thank the Buffalo Fine Arts Academy for the loan of the Red Jacket portrait which is in the hall as you come in. That was a special favor for us, and we hope it will be repeated in the years to come.

The wise counsel of the Board, and the cheerful, willing spirit of the staff has made this position of president of the Society a pleasant one.



Director's Report

by Robert L. Damm

The annual meetings of historical societies such as ours are not unlike those of business corporations. They are opportunities to tell members, our stockholders, about positive accomplishments, and hopefully, profits, gains, or other signs of progress, as well as to bestow recognition on deserving persons in a hospitable gathering of people with similar interests.

But, on occasion, the annual meeting should also provide a forum for contemplation and projection. I believe that members of the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society have reached the point for such a meeting. Statistics on specific activities and major accomplishments can be learned from our printed annual report, but the analysis of these "profits and losses" is best stated within this forum, thereby allowing our members, the Board of Managers, and other interested parties time to contemplate our future directions.

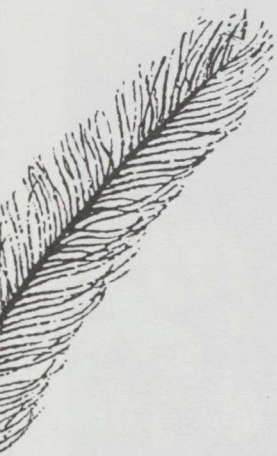
The reasons for giving an annual Director's Report which analyzes and projects possible future directions are not based on the wisdom or vision of your new director, nor on the desire to bring about change for change's sake. However, there have been some national and local difficulties which have affected our Society.

Since 1975, the Society has been faced with the same inflation which has affected us all, but for the Society it was complicated by decreased public appropriations and a loss of key professional staff. In 1978, the Society lost its professional director, and for over one year the burden of daily operations and administration fell on the Associate Director, one division Chief, the President, and members of the Board of Managers. They deserve sincere thanks for their efforts and devotion during this critical period.

The absence of a director was not, in itself, that important. However, that vacancy, the lack of other key staff, and a total organizational structure different from that of the past affected various Society operations.

Some of my key concerns about the Society come from recent experiences before I accepted this position. I spent three years conducting three of the 27 National Endowment on the Humanities studies of state and regional historical societies, was involved with several other studies, and participated in the final conference that reviewed the total findings. I assure you that many of the problems faced here today are not unique to this Society, or due to what has, or has not, been done internally.

Historical societies and museums throughout the United States are now, and have been for many years, involved in a transition brought about by the changes and demands of contemporary society. While attempting to continue to serve private and public constituencies, these institutions have been seriously restricted in providing support services because of inflation and disproportionate funding. Many have seen fit to remain content, passive, and complacent, and to reduce services, programs, and expenditures rather than accept the challenges. They have failed to fulfill their basic responsibilities, use proven contemporary management and fiscal



practices, or provide combined programs and activities based upon meaningful evaluations of their cost effectiveness.

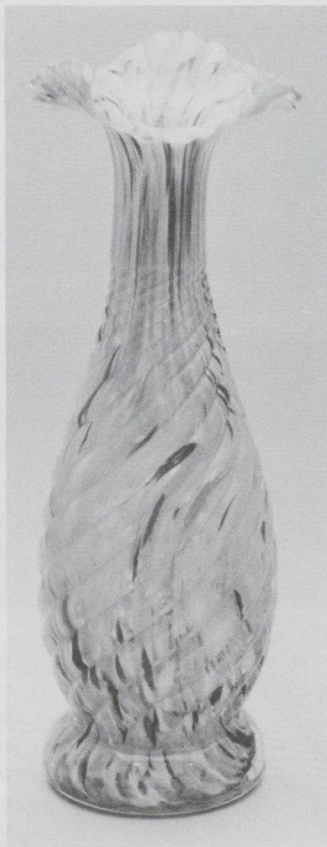
Any institution that chooses to sit back and not accept the challenges of meaningful and progressive change will lose out over the longer term. It will lose by not providing services to its publics. It will lose public recognition and support. Its membership will decline proportionately to the decrease in services to members. The educational community that is denied the unique and usable resources of a historical agency or museum will go elsewhere for assistance. The museum that does not care to incorporate contemporary design and communication techniques into exhibits, publications, or programs will see visitation decrease rapidly. And, the institution that does not analyze the use, condition, and real capability of its physical plant will be unable to sustain even modest operations. The list can go on and on.

There is one good sign, however, for our museums. While there may be periodic fluctuations in visitation or participation in our programs, for over 50 years there has been a significant and consistent increase in public demand for our unique services. Visitation to U.S. museums now exceeds 700 million persons annually, which I believe outdoes our national pastime — baseball — and the variety of our special program offerings has greatly multiplied. There is not apt to be a decrease in this kind of interest as our Society becomes more sophisticated intellectually and has the mobility and desire to seek entertainment with some intellectual stimulation. The future is there. We can recognize it, or we can take an alternative route, maintain the status quo and not support the very reasons for our existence — preservation of our heritage — or as James Smithson said in 1829 when he left money for the establishment of a museum, for the “increase and diffusion of knowledge among men.”

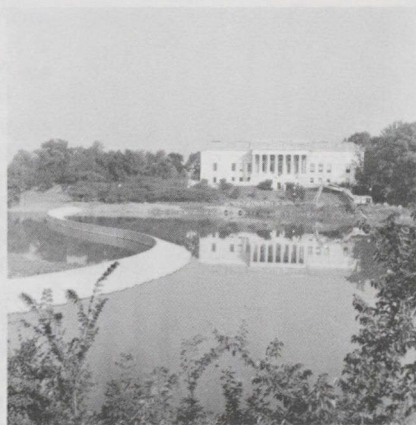
The Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society — through its Board of Managers — has chosen to pick up the challenge and make a strong commitment to these issues, to assume its responsibility, and to properly and efficiently serve its private and public constituencies. This has been consistently expressed during my brief tenure as your Director by the Board of Managers, the several committees of the Board, the Members Advisory Committee, our members, our staff, and the public generally.

The activity during the last 12 months has required planning, contemplation, and discussion before action. All have contributed most effectively and constructively in laying the foundation for our future. All those involved should be commended, and I personally thank them for their assistance and support.

The real beginning of this annual report dates back to my first visit in November, 1979. As a result of that visit, I took the liberty of preparing a brief report for President Meech outlining my observations, stating some of the key issues as I saw them, and indicating several basic objectives which could guide us through 1980. Hopefully, that report also served to indicate my mode of operation and professional concerns, and established a basis of understanding for our new relationship.



“Glassware: Made in America” Exhibit.



Work on Mirror Lake.

I would like to report briefly on those smaller accomplishments or failures in light of how they will affect longer-term goals.

Management, finances, and staffing

In the areas of management, finances, and staffing, change has been modest and slow in coming. While slow, there have been some inroads in the area of financial and management systems for the Society. Much of the necessity for change has been predicated on the fact that Society operations have grown over a period of years, and the previous accounting system has not been able to keep up with the demands or provide for proper accountability. Early this year, the first new staff person that I hired was an accountant who contributed greatly to the analysis of our fiscal system and gave positive recommendations for change. Unfortunately, he was offered an even better position, and we then had to hire another accountant who has taken over in a most efficient manner in correcting some of these concerns. Beginning in 1981, we will introduce a new accounting procedure which will provide for greater accountability for expenditures on a line-item basis and will also be consistent with a program budgeting approach which will be partly introduced for the 1981 budget.

Meanwhile, President Meech and Vice President Goodyear are reviewing the status of our endowment funds and the restrictions and characteristics of each, including an analysis of investments, in an attempt to bring about the greatest return from these funds, which account for approximately 15-20% of our annual operating income.

The Audit and Finance Committees have considered the status of our insurance coverage. Through their contacts, we secured a review of our insurance program by members of the firm of Aldrich & Cox and a rather intensive study of our insurance program with recommendations for the future. The Committees have also taken a careful look at our auditing services, which while quite adequate, may receive additional assistance in restructuring our accounting and financial systems.

During this entire period, the Director and the two successive accountants have scrutinized expenditures and previous budgeting practices in order to streamline the budgeting, purchasing, and accounts payable procedures. We now have regular quarterly financial reports.

It has been gratifying to again see that we have received several local foundation grants. They are most appreciated and helpful. Also, various state and federal agencies have sought us out to encourage us to apply for 1981 grants. During the first six months, nine grants were submitted to various agencies for funding, and during the remainder of the year, six more have been submitted. This is encouraging from the point of view that agencies have come to us indicating an interest in supporting our projects.

Management and administration

In the area of management and administration, and very closely related staffing, there have been several noteworthy accomplishments, but a lot yet remains to be done.

Perhaps one of the first accomplishments in this area was the beginning of a better but somewhat flexible internal



"Turn - of - the - Century Theater Posters" Exhibit.

staff communication system. The staff has been most cooperative and has offered their input at regular staff meetings. Board committee members have assisted us in bringing about some internal changes with a high percentage of participation and very positive and constructive input.

An effort has been made to relocate all administrative personnel into one area of the main floor of the building. While the openness of the general office has caused some difficulty, it has served to bring the director, associate director, chief of administration, and clerical personnel into closer proximity.

Perhaps the most critical concern in the area of administration and management, and one which cannot be easily resolved, is staffing. The Society is short five professional staff as a result of previous budget cuts and resignations. Over the past few years, we have been fortunate to have CETA employees of a very high caliber, who are dedicated to the Society. On the other hand, the CETA terms of employment do not exceed 18 months, and after that period, each is required to leave our positions, and we must train other temporary employees. Enough cannot be said about the high caliber and commitment of these employees, but they cannot, over the long term, replace permanent staff who perform many duties beyond their job descriptions.

Earlier this year, a new organizational plan was presented to the Personnel Committee and approved. It authorizes promotion of staff from within and realignment of divisions into more appropriate functional working groups. This, hopefully, will bring about greater efficiency with our limited staff. We hope that the 1981 County Budget will allow us to fill five new semi-professional and technical positions and vacancies on the existing permanent staff with qualified CETA employees whose terms will be ending with us. The plan also requires additional funding to properly remunerate permanent staff who have been promoted into higher positions with more responsibility.

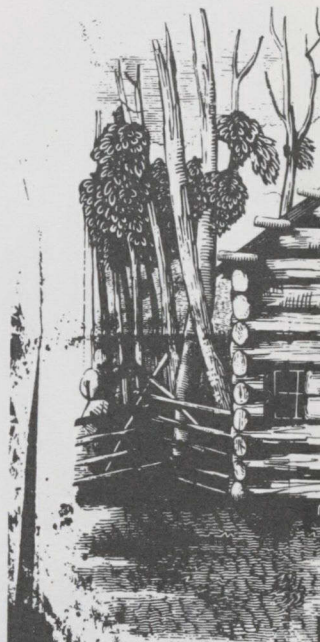
Another area of concern, and one in which Board members are in the process of reviewing, is our Chapter affiliations policy. Consistency in Chapter agreements and bylaws is needed. There is concern over our liability insurance for chapter activities, for example. We have assembled information from our files regarding the chapters, and this is currently being studied by a Board committee.

The whole area of administration/management; fiscal control; and staffing has seen some accomplishments made. Much must be continued in 1981. This should not be difficult with the continued cooperation of the Board of Managers and our staff.

Visitation to the Society

The second objective deals with visitation to the Society and utilization of its resources and participation in various programs. While there has been a decrease in Society visitation over the past five years, there are signs of modest increases in 1980 over 1979. Program participation and the use of our reference and research services also appears to be modest, but consistent with 1979.

With the exception of temporary exhibits installed during 1979, we have been somewhat in a holding pattern with our program expansion and new program development. Early





"Graphic Buffalo" Exhibit.

in the year, we were fortunate to be approached by the New York State Council on the Arts regarding a former grant request submitted to them. We expressed to them our concern about doing an analysis of the audiences and programs which the Society now offers and using this as a basis for evaluating our various activities in light of financial and staff cutbacks and restrictions. They provided us with a modest grant to engage the services of National Marketing Associates, a local audience survey organization, to interview various audiences and users of Society programs. While this has been trying for some of you who have been approached by interviewers, I can only say that your participation was most appreciated, and the results are already bearing fruit in terms of providing some answers relative to future program possibilities. We also conducted a survey of visitors to the museum, and subsequently, of government and business leaders in the Buffalo and Erie County community. These phases have been completed, and only the concluding phase remains. It involves a series of three conferences with specific groups throughout Buffalo and Erie County to hear their opinions of specialized Society programs and services which we might offer or improve.

The results of this survey report will clearly establish guidelines for our program revision and new program development. We feel that by approaching our program development from this point of view, we will be responding in a more effective and meaningful manner to the various segments of our audience.

All of the efforts to review existing programs and activities have not been external. Some months ago, we established three staff teams with specific assignments. One team evaluated existing programs and has coordinated their findings with the results of the outside survey. This group is awaiting the final submission of the outside study before

making their own recommendations.

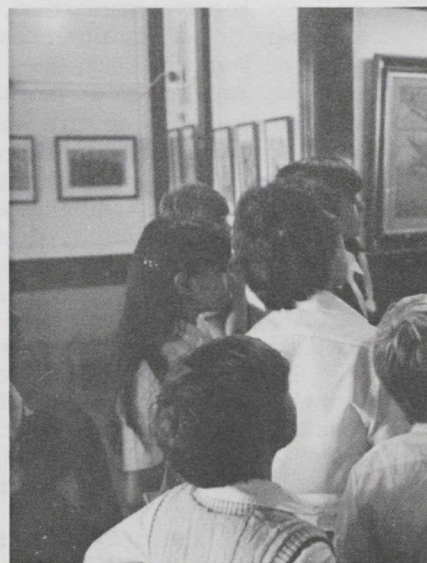
It was also essential to develop an interpretive plan, or theme approach, based on the history of Buffalo, Erie County, and Western New York, from which we can develop a meaningful structure for planning exhibits, programs, and activities for school groups and others. The initial report of this team has been completed.

Equally important is the work of the Collections team which studied our existing holdings in the broadest sense, prepared a basic collections inventory, and then considered various aspects of our acquisitions and collections policy, conservation needs, and related matters before making recommendations for a revision of our present collections policies and procedures. The data gained from these teams fits together, and reveals to us the availability and condition of our collections, and ways that they can be utilized in an interpretative structure and in programs. You will be hearing more about this approach and the very worthwhile staff contributions.

Educational tours have continued as usual, and the curator has lectured to outside groups and schools, provided loan kits, various audio-visual services, and occasionally, special program presentations. Our reference and research services in the library, manuscripts, and iconography, have been used consistently. A greater than usual proportion of funds was needed for the conservation of several paintings; much more needs to be done, but present finances restrict our efforts in these areas. There has been a great deal of study within recent weeks relative to storage of museum collections, since present areas leased by the Society are filled to capacity. Changes will be made in our storage space within a matter of weeks. In the area of publications, we have continued the *Newsletter*, *Niagara Frontier*, *Adventures Series* publications and this year, two temporary exhibits catalogs, plus miscellaneous flyers.

One area where we have been kept the busiest since my arrival has been in the temporary exhibits program. While the Niagara River exhibit was opened soon after I arrived, it represented a more permanent type of display. It was well done and well received. The rationale for instituting a series of 18 temporary exhibits for the year was based on the need to focus attention on the Society and its collections of unique historical materials. It became evident to me that the collections of this institution were extremely rich, and that many had not been seen by either the membership or the community in some time. The variety and number of temporary exhibits proved amazing to me, and I trust extremely interesting to viewers. The Board Room was opened as a secure exhibit gallery in which we might display rare collections of stamps and coins, and now the Charles R. Wilson Collection of Presidential Documents. All of these exhibits have been accomplished with very limited staff, and at little cost.

In conjunction with the physical changes within the building, an attempt was made to combine the administrative functions and at the same time open up and expose the interior architectural features. The development of a museum shop was undertaken that would be an asset to the museum. It was my feeling that if we were to have a gift shop, it should be done properly and given a chance to realize its full



Apostolic Clock.

potential. Tonight, you can see another step in the process of developing the gift shop into an attractive and meaningful Society activity. We give particular thanks to our design consultant, Keith Reynolds, and to the Members Advisory Committee sub-committee which has agreed to serve in an advisory capacity to the museum shop along with one Board member.

Since I have mentioned the Members Advisory Committee, I would like to emphasize their other contributions during my short tenure. Early in the year, they initiated a series of lectures related to our exhibit openings. The audience for these has grown tremendously, with the one last week attracting close to 100 persons. In addition, they have also served as hosts and hostesses at virtually every opening and special occasion at the Society. They committed themselves to continuing their corporate membership drive undertaken last year, and this year developed a more comprehensive list of potential contributors to contact with excellent results.

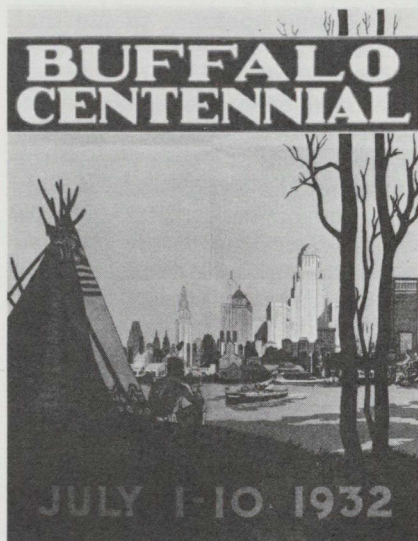
Chapter activity has continued at a high level of activity, and it has been my pleasure to work with many of the members of our Chapters. Hopefully, in the future, we will bring about a closer relationship with some of the chapters, as well as a better understanding of our mutual concerns and responsibilities and expansion of chapter programs into more specialized areas of interest.

Early in the year, I counted up the number of organizations and groups that I found myself involved with to one degree or another; it was well over 20 groups. But there is one relationship about which I feel particularly strong. It is with the Erie County Historical Federation. We were involved again this year with the historical department exhibits at the Erie County Fair and provided a special workshop with those groups who were preparing their exhibits for the competition. This was a most gratifying experience, as have been the tours that I have taken so far to the museums and historic sites throughout the County. I believe strongly that we have a responsibility to these groups, and that there is a great potential for expanding these relationships in the future.

It has become evident that the variety of programs and an increased focus on temporary exhibits and other activities which we have undertaken this year have borne fruit. Within the last two months, there has been a general increase in publicity regarding the Society, and we have noticed, internally, an increase in public concern and interest in the Society's activities. We are thankful for the assistance of the media in bringing our cause to the attention of the public.

The utilization of space

The third issue I defined in my objectives dealt with the physical facilities of the Exposition Building and the utilization of space in general. Almost every issue which I first identified has some direct relationship to present and future use of our existing facilities. Any changes within this facility have to be carefully coordinated with programs, activities, and routine institutional operations. Closely associated with these concerns is the age of many of the permanent exhibits in the museum, many now exceeding 10 years in age. Of equal concern is the necessity for interior and exterior repairs and renovations to repair ongoing deficiencies which have not been corrected because of the lack of funding.



"Graphic Buffalo" Exhibit.



I have heard concern expressed by some visitors that more and more space is being used for office spaces or work areas, and space for public use has correspondingly decreased. This is certainly not a unique situation, but one which is faced by many museums and galleries located in buildings of similar vintage. I feel strongly that we are lacking adequate equipment with which to produce the types and quality of materials and exhibits that we desire. I have found through experience that you cannot compensate by having additional staff perform the same functions that well-selected equipment can more efficiently do.

For all these reasons, it became apparent to me that priority should be given to correcting problems associated with our physical plant in order to lessen other problems we face. For almost six months we have been seeking additional storage space to relieve the overcrowded conditions that are existing in the Collections storage areas and also relieve the generally crowded conditions within the Exposition Building so that more public space can be opened within our fine historic building. Within the last two weeks, we have arranged the lease of 19,000 square feet of storage and work space. We will now be able to move all our collections storage into one building and use adjacent areas for the cleaning, preservation, and processing of the collections. We will be able to open approximately 10,000 square feet of space in this building for exhibits and other uses. This will mean the transfer of

Reception at opening of three exhibits on Presidents.



work space and staff, materials and dead storage, and a variety of other supplies out of this building and into another about half a mile away. Of great concern to us in taking this step was the need to open up the Exposition Building so that we can make effective repairs and renovations without worrying about damage to exhibits or collections in areas needing the repairs. The potential is great, but the obligation in terms of this new storage facility and the renovation of this building is also great. It will require that we seek additional funding through a variety of sources to accomplish these objectives. I would be remiss if I did not point out that work has already been initiated in regard to external and internal repairs and renovations to the grounds and to the Exposition Building. Some weeks ago, members of the Board of Managers met with Mayor Griffin to seek the City's assistance. We are deeply in debt to Mayor Griffin for his prompt assistance in providing us with City help in correcting some of the current problems.

It is apparent that 1980 has been a year of great beginning with much to be accomplished in 1981. This will depend greatly on the County appropriation, other funding, and staffing levels. While the move to the new storage annex will be accomplished by year's end, much settling in will still be required.

1980 has also been a time during which our activities were more directly focused on administrative and operational problems; 1981 should be a year when we return to the basics — programs, research, and collections.

1) As a result of the survey report, programs and activities will be realigned for greater effectiveness in serving our public and private constituencies. We will deal with outreach programs as well as those conducted within the Exposition Building, while recognizing that there is just not enough physical space in which to economically conduct all of our activities within this building.

2) We will improve and expand our reference, research, and publications activities and provide for better and more extensive use of our fine collection. The move to the new building will help in opening up space and rearranging the interior of this building to provide enlarged and improved central reference and research areas. The publication of an inventory of collections will attract more scholars and researchers and serve our research staff.

3) We will increase our efforts in acquiring good collections to fill in the gaps identified through our inventory and establish a major program for conserving our collections. There are many collections and historical materials still available in Buffalo and Western New York which should be sought and preserved. We must also acquire more contemporary historical materials.

4) If we are to accomplish these basic objectives, we must make progress in the renovation and repair of the Exposition Building. We will need to restore its original architectural features and develop exhibit and public areas which are compatible with this fine historic building.

There are benefits to be derived from a major effort in 1981 as just described, and it is necessary that we take these bold moves.

As the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, we

have a responsibility to participate effectively in the Buffalo Sesquicentennial. There are also benefits to be derived from focusing on 1982 — the Sesquicentennial Year — as the culminating period for the completion of the goals described previously. Already we are serving as sponsors for a pictorial history of Buffalo for the Sesquicentennial. We propose to open a major exhibit utilizing the entire renovated second floor, depicting a walk through Buffalo, 1832-1982, as another contribution to the Sesquicentennial. Additional galleries and renovated areas will make it possible to offer other temporary exhibits and programs utilizing our fine collections, and those of others, for more specific historical events in Buffalo and Erie County.

Centennial celebrations are usually times when individual historic awareness has peaked dramatically, and it is an appropriate time to collect historic materials.

A well-directed effort toward 1982 and the Sesquicentennial theme provides us with positive means to stimulate the community support for our Society and interest in the preservation of our past. Previously, I have mentioned that this annual meeting might serve as a forum of ideas for your contemplation and ultimately, your decision. I trust that I have provided some food for thought. If the directions suggested are acceptable, we have the primary ingredient for the accomplishment of our future objectives. We have a mutual understanding and a unity of purpose to guide us. With this type of commitment we will be able to stimulate greater private and public support, increase public recognition through effective and broader service to our constituency, and attract greater funding because we have a responsible, well-planned and timely approach to the future.

There might be an analogy drawn between our national elections two days ago and the timeliness of our Annual Meeting. The candidates dealt with the present and the future and will be "makers of history;" the voters, in addition to their concerns over individual economic conditions, clearly expressed an understanding of past history. Judging by the election results, the past was an historical reference base upon which they made their decisions for the future.

History is alive, and was alive Tuesday in the minds of all Americans. We, in an historical society, represent probably the only type of institution within our country responsible for preserving, protecting, researching, and interpreting this obviously important, but hidden, element in the thought process of so many Americans.

Why is it that we, who are so close to history, so frequently take it for granted, feel it is an isolated interest or concern, and at times, may even feel embarrassed to admit our affiliation with history? There can be no question but that history is alive and important to all Americans, and that we, as the preservers of that history, also have a responsibility to perpetuate it, share it, and utilize it for the benefit of all.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

1980

LIBRARY

Readers	2,476
Reader Assistance	1,530
Mail Requests	497
Research for Staff	782
Telephone Requests	1,359

EDUCATION

Annual Visitors	114,916
Individuals in tour groups	9,646

ICONOGRAPHY

Collections Accessioned	74
Visiting Researchers	1,096
Staff Researchers and Inquiries	435
Telephone Inquiries	1,969
Correspondence	316

MANUSCRIPTS

Manuscript Requests	674
Telephone Requests	837
Correspondence	240
Donations Received	83
Donations Accessioned	86

EXHIBITS AND EVENTS — 1980

JANUARY	Collector's Corner: Silhouette of James Miller Family
8	Western New York Popular Culture Society's "A Tribute to Hammer Films"
11	Military History Chapter Meeting
27	Medical History Chapter Meeting
30	Exhibit Opening: "The Niagara River"
FEBRUARY	Collector's Corner: Art Deco Objects
	State Court Exhibit of large Currier and Ives lithographs
8	Military History Chapter Meeting
12	Lincoln's Birthday Celebration
	Western New York Popular Culture Society Meeting
MARCH	Collector's Corner: 1901 Pan-American Exposition Concession Souvenirs
6	Exhibit Opening: "Deldare Ware"
11	Western New York Popular Culture Society Salutes Vincent Price
22	Military History Chapter Annual Dinner
APRIL	
8	Western New York Popular Culture Society Meeting
11	Military History Chapter Meeting
20	Marker Ceremony at St. Louis R.C. Church
25	Open House for Teachers
MAY	
1	Society Lecture Series: "Deldare Ware"
4	Medical History Chapter Dinner
	Marker Ceremony at S.P.C.A. Headquarters
10	Landmark Society Annual Dinner
15	Society Lecture Series: "The Niagara River"
	Western New York Popular Culture Society Meeting
18	International Museum Day
	Exhibit Opening: "The Changing Nature of Collectibles"
22	Exhibit Openings: "Glassware: Made in America," "Turn-of-the-Century Theater Posters," "Stamps and Coins," and "World War II Posters"
JUNE	
5	Society Lecture Series: "The Theater in Bygone Days"
10	Western New York Popular Culture Society Meeting
11	Marker Dedication Ceremony at Episcopal Church Home
12	Society Lecture Series: "Styles of American Glass"
19	Society Lecture Series: "The Nature of Collectibles"
21	Exhibit Workshop
26	Volunteer Recognition Reception
JULY	
13	Popular Culture Society Nostalgic Fair and Flea Market
16	Congress of Local Historical Societies 25th Annual Meeting
AUGUST	
8-17	Erie County Fair, Hamburg, New York
SEPTEMBER	
4	Society Lecture Series: "Buffalo in Print and Picture: 1800-1901"
9	Western New York Popular Culture Society Meeting
10	Exhibit Openings: "Buffalo Works: A Look at Labor," "Graphic Buffalo," and "Buffalo in Print"
13	Landmark Society Tour, "Buffalo Heyday"
18	Society Lecture Series: "Prints and Their Processes"
25	Museum Education Conference at Albright-Knox Art Gallery
OCTOBER	
7	209th Coast Artillery (AA) Regiment from Georgia to Italy, 1940-45, documentary color film
8	Annual Fair Awards Night
10	Military History Chapter and Civil War Round Table Meeting
11	Marker Ceremony at the Buffalo Evening News Building
14	Western New York Popular Culture Society Meeting

- 17 "The Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris," lecture co-sponsored by the
Landmark Society at the Burchfield Center
- 23 Exhibit Openings: "Visions of the Presidency," "The Campaign
Trail," and "Documents of the Presidents"
- 30 Society Lecture Series: "Grover Cleveland as Known in Buffalo"

NOVEMBER

- 2 Medical History Chapter Fall Dinner Meeting
- 6 Annual Meeting of the Society and the presentation of the Red
Jacket Award
- 7 Landmark Society Lecture
- 11 Western New York Popular Culture Society Meeting
- 14 Military History Chapter Meeting
- 20 Society Lecture Series: "Glenn Curtiss and the Niagara Frontier
Aviation Industry"

DECEMBER

- 9 Western New York Popular Culture Society Meeting
- 12 Landmark Society Lecture and Reception
- 20-21 Christmas Reception

Red Jacket Medal

PRESENTATION

by George F. Goodyear

Before I make my little talk about the awardees, I would like to recognize the fact that Frank and Lydia are the parents of a son and a daughter. The daughter is now in the Ivory Coast as the representative of the Chemical Bank, and she is unable to be here; but the son is here, and I would like to have him stand, Frank Gerald Evans, Jr.

When our Society decided some twenty years ago to honor a local citizen for distinguished civic contributions, it created the Red Jacket Award and presented the recipients of the award with a full-scale replica of the original medal that had been given to the Society in 1895. It is now regarded as one of the Society's most valuable possessions, being one of the most famous of the medals given by the U.S. Government to Indian dignitaries in the early days of our Republic.

When President Washington presented the original medal to the Seneca Indian, Red Jacket, at ceremonies in Philadelphia in 1793, he intended the medal to be, and I quote here, "Symbolic of the merging of two cultures with mutual respect and understanding for heritage of each,

and the hope of peaceful progress together in the future."

This year's recipients, Drs. Frank G. Evans and Lydia T. Wright, have matched this criteria with their involvement in civic affairs and their contributions to this community. Frank Gerald Evans is a member of the Board of Trustees of the YMCA of Buffalo and Erie County, a past recipient of their Gold Key Award, and a past Chairman of their local Capital Fund drive. In these times of uncertainty, he has provided a determined effective leadership as President of the Buffalo Equality Foundation, a charitable organization which fosters better relations between black and white communities in Buffalo. A quiet, unassuming man, Dr. Evans also serves the people of this community through such organizations as the Comprehensive Health Council of Western New York, through the Credentials Committee of Millard Fillmore Hospital, and the local Negro College Fund.

Born in Indiana, he graduated from Indiana University and interned in Harlem Hospital in New York City. He now serves on the faculty of the State University of New York at Buffalo Medical School and is a full attending internist at Millard Fillmore Hospital. In addition, he has been

active in the Western New York Tuberculosis Association, is a past recipient of the 1490 Enterprises Black Achiever's Award, and is a member of the Pundit Club, one of the oldest literary organizations in Buffalo.

Lydia T. Wright was the first black person to be appointed to the Buffalo Board of Education, taking her seat in May 1962 and serving a five-year term until 1967. Dr. Wright asked not to be reappointed to the Board when her term expired, stating that "We — the Board of Education — may not be moving the way that everyone wants, but we are certainly moving in the direction that is benefiting the majority."

She served on the Board of the East Side Community Organization (ESCO), the group that brought Saul Alinsky to organize Buffalo's black community. Her work with ESCO played an important role in bridging the gap between the black and other ethnic neighborhoods of our city at a time when it was greatly needed.

Dr. Wright has also served on the Mayor's Citizen's Advisory Committee, in the Open Housing Signature Campaign, and the Project "Good Neighbors." She has the distinction of being the first woman in the United States to be appointed to the Episcopal Church's Standing Committee.

Her education was received at the University of Cincinnati, Fiske University, and Meharry Medical College. She is a physician on the staff of Children's Hospital of Buffalo.

Together, Frank G. Evans and his wife Lydia T. Wright have jointly provided effective leadership in our community, both in securing educational benefits for minorities and the improvement of relationships between black and white communities. They have enriched our city's cultural, educational, and scientific programs over a long period. Theirs has been the "quiet, continued, unbroken devotion to our civic progress and needs by those who, through such devotion, have thereby enlarged our awareness of our heritage in order that it may be built upon for the enrichment of our future." This is one of the primary criteria for this Award.

It is indeed an honor to be able

to present these Red Jacket Awards to you, Dr. Frank G. Evans, and to you, Dr. Lydia T. Wright.

RESPONSE

by Frank G. Evans, M.D. and Lydia T. Wright, M.D.

Dr. Wright:

President Meech, members of the Board of Managers, members of the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, and guests. It is with sincere appreciation that my husband, Frank, and I accept this, the prestigious Red Jacket Award. We are honored and overwhelmed to have been chosen this year's recipients.

As you well know, almost two hundred years ago President Washington completed a treaty of friendship with the Seneca Indians. On that occasion he presented a medal to the Seneca's most articulate leader. Years later, having experienced the white man's oppressive use of power, this same Indian, Red Jacket, would say, "You are a kindhearted people, seeking your own advantage."

In the twenty years that the Historical Society has been presenting a replica of the original award, it has been presented to outstanding men and women for significant civic achievements. Until tonight, however, Buffalonians had reason to assume that the recipients would continue to be drawn from a particular group of people, a group favored by privilege predetermined by birth. But tonight, the Buffalo Historical Society makes history: we are co-recipients, we are husband and wife, and we are black.

We agree with Red Jacket. You are indeed a kindhearted people, publicly acknowledging as you do tonight that the significant contributions to our pluralistic society come from people of diverse backgrounds.

When we learned that we would receive the Red Jacket Award, we learned also that it was an award born of strife. Our thoughts naturally turned to the history of the racial conflict that marks the development of our nation. At the time of its initial presentation, the award symbolized the best instincts of two groups of

Americans, Americans who were finding humane ways to settle their deep-seated differences. Over the past two weeks, Frank and I have tried to recall when it was in our own early lives that we became aware of the particularly bitter struggle that life held in store for us because of our color.

Dr. Evans:

A fourth-generation Hoosier, I am descended from African, Indian, and Welsh ancestors. My great-grandparents were children of slaves, but since I grew up in a family where the word slavery was forbidden, I knew little about these ancestors except that the women were great cooks and the men were coachmen for wealthy families who owned fine coaches and horses. In the generation of my grandparents, the women did not work outside the home, but my maternal grandfather, who owned a team of horses, helped build homes and public buildings. My paternal grandfather owned a small dairy herd. He supported and educated his family of eight children by selling dairy products door to door. Four of his children continued their education past high school into college or professional school. One of these, my father, became a podiatrist.

He and my mother, a beautician, worked together for forty years in their own shop in Rushville, the small central Indiana town where I grew up. The county seat of Rush County, Rushville, was the hometown of Wendell Willkie, the 1940 Republican nominee for President. When I lived there, the population, a little over 5,000, included 50 black families. Six of these families owned downtown businesses, primarily supported by whites.

Almost every white person in the area including the Willkie family patronized the Evans' shop at one time or another. At its peak it was the largest and best place in Rushville for foot and beauty care. Their shop was not just a place to come for a marcel or a pedicure; it was the place where many whites came for solace outside their social sphere.

While my parents worked, I was cared for by my grandparents, John

and Emma Ferguson. Their home is still known to the townsfolk as the old Ferguson place, just as the red brick house on Harrison Street is the old Willkie place.

Although color, like slavery, was never mentioned in our house, I knew there was a difference between black and white because blacks all lived in a separate section of town; blacks did not come for services at my parents' shop; blacks could not eat or sleep at the Durbin Hotel; and only blacks attended the church where I worshipped. Still, my own relationships with whites in Rushville at that time were such that race was not significant. For example, after the sixth grade I attended an integrated school. I played in the white Presbyterian church's orchestra; I belonged to an integrated Boy Scout troop; I swam in an integrated pool; and I played, ate, and slept in the homes of most of my white friends. In fact, my best friend was the son of a wealthy furniture dealer, and a good friend was Wendell Willkie's son Phillip whom I heard from every Christmas until he died a few years ago. These things may seem inconsequential to you, but remember all this took place at a time when custom and laws precluded the mixing of blacks and whites. In addition to all this, my parents were as close to an eyeball to eyeball relationship with the town's whites as they were with the town's blacks. But Rushville was still an Indiana town. The Klan was there; but with so few blacks, Catholics and Jews were the object of their activities.

It was not until I left Rushville, was confronted with prejudice and discrimination as a student at Indiana University, fought in World War II as a soldier in a segregated Army, returned from that war on crutches only to be refused service because of my color at a restaurant in the Claypool Hotel in Indianapolis — not until then did I come face to face with the black experience.

Dr. Wright:

My story is totally different. For all intents and purposes, I was born into the black experience. The mere mention of the word Shreveport triggers in me a torrent of painful



Society President Robert B. Meech and Red Jacket recipients, Lydia T. Wright, M.D., and Frank G. Evans, M.D.

memories: a white man slapping my mother for not saying "Sir;" a lynch mob leaving my father for dead on railroad tracks; again, my mother in her kitchen and seven months pregnant brandishing a butcher knife to frighten off a white would-be rapist; and white men storming the doors of black homes, dragging out women and ravishing them while their husbands stand by, helpless.

My maternal grandmother was a school teacher. Her husband, who attended Oberlin College, was the first black to attend the old Eclectic Medical School in Cincinnati, Ohio. My mother attended Tuskegee Institute where she met my father, and she was graduated from the University of Cincinnati. Valuing education is a tradition on both sides of our family, and our son Frank Jr. and daughter

Tammy are fourth generation college graduates.

While I was born in Shreveport, Louisiana, the roots of my father's family lie in the settlement of Mount Sinai, sixty-five miles east and slightly north in what is known as Claiborne Parish. It is an all black community that was once the heart of my great grandfather Elbert Meadors' 3200 acre estate.

Family history has it that Elbert, his brothers Richard and Tom, and their sister Tilda were children of a wealthy white plantation owner and a half Indian and half African mother. The 1880 census gives Elbert's birthplace as South Carolina and his birthdate as 1834. The white man he claimed as his father was from a prominent family named Meadors. That name, Meadors, is also known as

Meadows and Meders. Some white family members claim that their ancestors, and hence ours, go back to John-of-the-Meadow, a fifteenth century English landowner.

According to my father, his grandfather Elbert was never a slave on the Meadors plantation in Louisiana. When the Civil War was over, the plantation was sold to Elbert by his white half brother who was afraid to hire slaves once they were free. One stipulation in the sale of the property was that Elbert marry the white plantation owner's mulatto daughter Margaret. Together they successfully managed the 3200 acres of land by using all the skills of the former slaves who lived on there as sharecroppers. In three years, Elbert and Margaret had raised and sold enough cotton to own the land outright, and they celebrated by building a school and a church for the whole community.

It was on this plantation that my father was raised, and it was to this place that he and my mother returned after graduating from Tuskegee Institute. Before my father secured a full time job with the Standard Life Insurance Company, he spent a great deal of time teaching the sharecroppers and other blacks in Mount Sinai how to read, write, and keep records. He could see that the lack of these skills was making it possible for the white merchants in town to keep blacks mired in debt. It was the knowledge of these so-called subversive activities that caused the local whites first to hate, then to harass, and finally to try to kill my father.

My parents suffered hardships and humiliations that most people would find impossible to endure. In 1923, when they could stand no more, they moved to Cincinnati, the home of my mother's grandparents.

In the early 1930s, oil was discovered on the 3200 acre tract of land in Mount Sinai, and my father signed the appropriate leases entitling the oil companies to drill. Twenty years later when my father had become

ill and was living with me in Buffalo, white cousins of his began calling him long distance in an effort to buy off his oil interests. Suspicious of their motives, we contacted our lawyers. But by the time they reached Shreveport, courthouse records had been burned, white cousins who were lawyers had manipulated deeds, traitorous alliances had been established, and 3200 acres of land had dwindled to less than 300.

As I grew up in Cincinnati, I heard these stories told and retold around our kitchen table, and as I listened to them I determined for myself that I would seek a career that would free me from dependence on a system that I found abhorrent and that also would enable me to improve in some manner the lot of my fellow blacks.

Dr. Evans:

As we look back and reflect upon how we happened to come to Buffalo 29 years ago, we recall that we chose Buffalo because of our determination to be of service, both as physicians and as responsible, concerned citizens of the community. It never occurred to us, however, that our modest efforts over the years would merit the recognition and the honor that we receive here this evening.

It must be so that people are the sum total of their experiences — personal and vicarious — experiences that shape their lives, giving them motivation, challenge, and direction. Our experiences have brought us to this place and to this time.

I am reminded, at this point, of the traveler in Robert Frost's poem who came upon two roads which, he said, "diverged in a yellow wood;" and, sorry he could not take both, the traveler took the road "less traveled-by." And that, he decided, made all the difference in his life.

I am not certain that the road which brought us to Buffalo was the road "less traveled-by," but our decision to take that road has, for us, "made all the difference."

A copy of the 1980 Financial Report is available at the Society's office.

Annual Meeting of Members

NOVEMBER 6, 1980

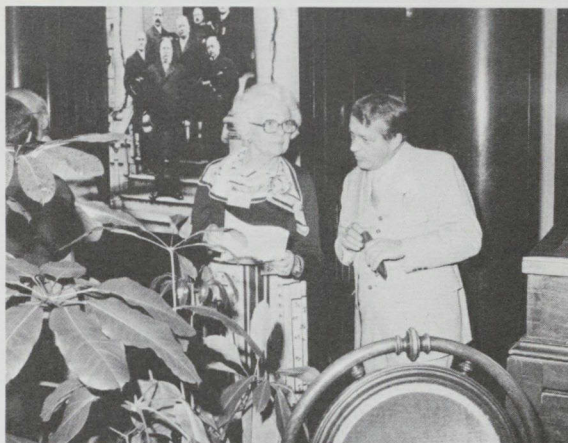
Dr. I Frank Mogavero, Secretary, called the meeting to order at 8:35 p.m. in the Historical Society.

Prior to the Annual Business Meeting, 127 members and guests attended a reception, dined in the Erie County Room and 1870 Street, and toured museum exhibits including three recently installed: Signatures of Presidents from Washington to Hoover from the Society's Charles A. Wilson Collection, in the Board Room; "The Campaign Trail," on the upper floor; and "The Presidency," in the State Court. A red-white-and-blue theme was followed in banners, streamers, and table decor.

The minutes of the annual meeting of members held November 13, 1979, were approved.

Mrs. Roger K. Adams presented the Nominating Committee's report for the Class of 1984 Members Advisory Committee, moving the reelection of Mrs. Roland R. Benzow, DeWitt Clinton, Mrs. Norman K. Millard, Charles S. Pierce, Donald E. Taylor, and Mrs. Kitty Turgeon and new members Thomas C. Bailey, Donald J. Spittler, and Olaf W. Shelgren. There being no other nominations, the motion was seconded and the vote carried unanimously.

Mrs. Andrew J. Rich presented the Nominating Committee's report for the Class of 1984 of the Board of Managers: John L. Hettrick, Mrs. James W. Oppenheimer, Frederick S. Pierce, George G. Sipprell, and John P. Wickser. There were no nominations from the floor. The nominations were seconded and the vote carried unanimously.



Annual Meeting Reception.

A special Board of Managers Citation was presented by Richard C. Marcus, Treasurer, to Hon. Anthony L. LoRusso of the Buffalo Naval Servicemen's Park, Inc. for its contribution to Buffalo's waterfront development and historical preservation.

Annual Reports were given by Robert B. Meech, President, and Robert L. Damm, Director. Both will be published in full in the annual report issue of the *Niagara Frontier*, the Society's quarterly magazine. Mr. Meech then introduced Mr. George F. Goodyear, Vice President of the Society, to make the annual Red Jacket Award presentation to two local recipients.

Frank G. Evans, M.D., and his wife, Lydia T. Wright, M.D., were cited for their distinguished civic contributions and each given the traditional Red Jacket plaque and silver medallion. They are both physicians, are both active in educational, charitable, and cultural programs, and are both giving "quiet, continued unbroken devotion to civic progress." Their joint response will be published in the *Niagara Frontier*.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m. Members and their guests were invited to have coffee in the State Court.

Respectfully submitted,
I. FRANK MOGAVERO, Ph.D.
Secretary

Highlights 1980



"The Changing Nature of Collectibles" Exhibit.



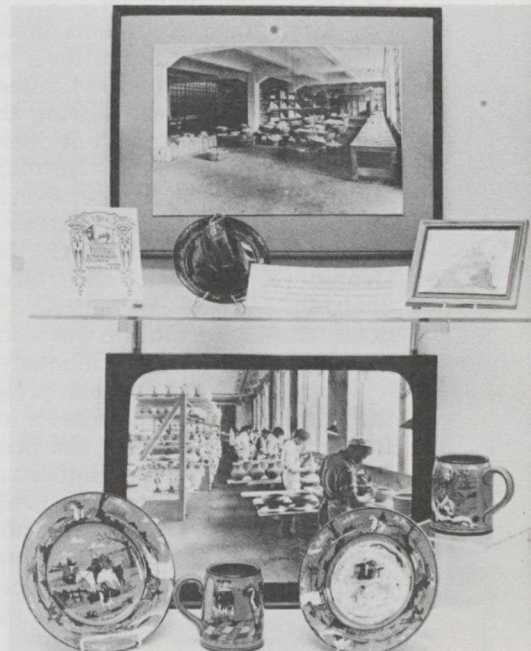
Museum staff assisting at warehouse during move.

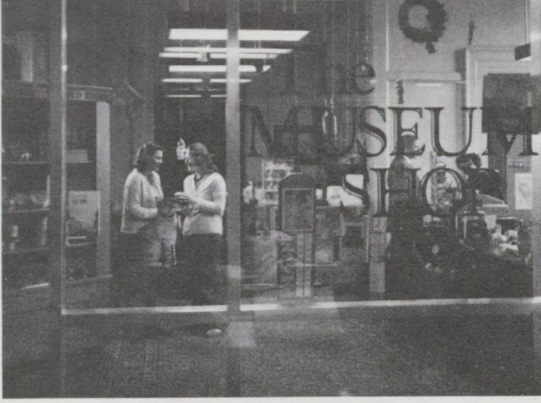


William W. McAllister, Vice President of Windsor Publications, Mayor James D. Griffin, and Society President Robert B. Meech discuss the signing of the publication contract for the Buffalo Sesquicentennial book.



Above: "Buffalo in Print" Exhibit. Right: Society volunteers honored.

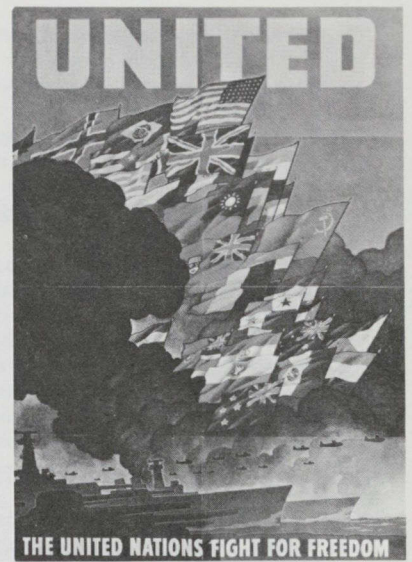




The Museum Shop.



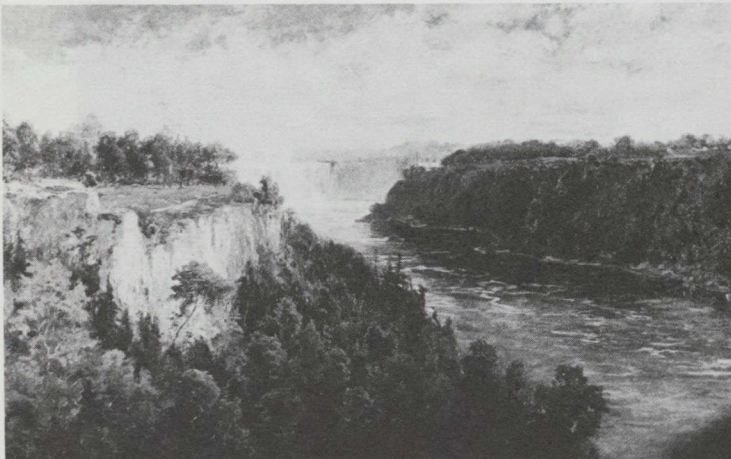
Jesse Robards repairs the Apostolic Clock.



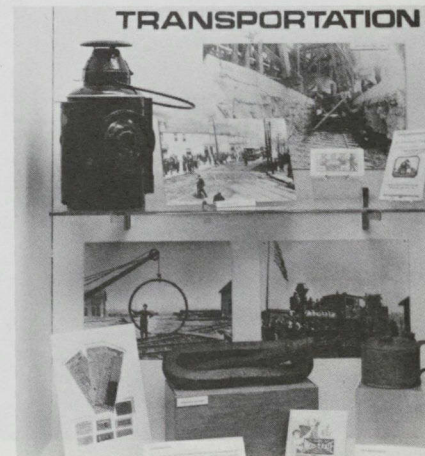
"World War II Posters" Exhibit.



Mrs. Julia B. Reinstein and Robert L. Damm cutting 25th Anniversary Cake at the Congress of Local Historical Societies, July 16.



Three exhibits. Left: "Deldare Ware," above: "The Niagara River," and right: "Buffalo Works: A Look at Labor."



Report of the Committee on Markers

by I. Frank Mogavero, Ph.D.

There is a real danger of having some markers erected for very trivial reasons. It is to obviate this, that at its very inception, the Markers Committee established definite criteria to govern its selection of incidents in our heritage which should be brought to public recollection through the medium of markers or plaques.

The Committee has moved slowly, erecting approximately eighty markers in its more than twenty years of existence. It shall continue its cautious, scholarly research tactics.

The first marker ceremony of 1980 was the dedication of a marker installed in the foyer of St. Louis Roman Catholic Church at Main and Edward Streets in Buffalo. The church, mother church of the present Catholic Diocese of Buffalo, was founded in 1829 by the Reverend John Nicholas Mertz, pioneer priest in Western New York, on land donated by Louis LeCouteulx, first Catholic resident of Buffalo who became one of the city's greatest benefactors.

The first St. Louis Church built in 1829, a simple log structure covered with mud and straw, was replaced by an imposing brick structure in 1843. This second structure burned in 1885. The cornerstone of the present beautiful Gothic edifice of Medina Red Sandstone which now graces the corner of Main and Edward Streets was laid in 1886. Preliminary efforts have been made to place the building on the National Register of

Historic Places. It has been designated an historic site by the Buffalo Landmark and Preservation Board.

The ceremony of dedication began immediately after the twelve o'clock Mass on Sunday, April 20, just within the altar rail where the marker rested on an easel. The next day it was installed in the foyer. The Reverend William Schwinger, Pastor of St. Louis Church, and Dr. I. Frank Mogavero, Member of the Board of Managers and Chairman of the Markers Committee, spoke to the gathering and then did the unveiling.

Among the notables attending were Thomas Griffin, Commissioner of Parks of the City of Buffalo, who represented his brother Mayor James Griffin; the Reverend Alfred M. Mosack, former pastor of the church and honorary chairman of the St. Louis 150th Anniversary Committee; Reverend Francis Litz, C.S.S.R.; Arthur Grupp and Thomas Driscoll, lay trustees; Larry Schieber, co-chairman of the 150th Anniversary Committee; Sister Theresa Marie of the Mercedarian Order; and Ruth Kolb, Irene Meisriemer, and Rose Kennedy representing the Ladies' Societies. Mrs. Grace Rich, member of the Board of Managers, Monroe Bingeman, member of the Markers Committee, Lester W. Smith, Associate Director of the Society, and I. F. Mogavero represented the Historical Society.

Following the ceremonies, cake and coffee were served in the basement of the church.



Marker ceremony at St. Louis Roman Catholic Church.

The marker reads as follows:

ST. LOUIS

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mother church of present Buffalo
Diocese. Founded 1829 by Rev. John
Nicholas Mertz. First resident Catholic
priest of Buffalo. Land donated by
Louis LeCouteulx, first Catholic
resident in Buffalo

ST. LOUIS CONGREGATION

BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1979

Just two weeks later, Sunday, May 4,
the Committee was busily engaged in another
dedicatory program. This was a marker, long
overdue, honoring one of the area's oldest
institutions, the Erie County Society for the
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, on
Ensminger Road in the Town of Tonawanda.
Founded in 1868, it is the fifth oldest such
society in the country. Millard Fillmore was
one of its prime movers.

The countless acts of mercy performed
by the S.P.C.A. in behalf of dumb animals
are too many to be enumerated here. For
more than one hundred years it has been a
haven for sick, abandoned, and stray animals
and has been the foremost exponent in
bringing about legislation to alleviate the
inhumane treatment of animals. For more
than a century, its existence has been a
comfort to all animal lovers and a most
necessary adjunct of our community.

In the early years, its headquarters was
located in various places. In 1916, it erected
a permanent building on West Tupper Street
between Delaware and Elmwood Avenues.
When this facility opened, a water trough,
donated by Edwin S. Miller and Mary C.
Miller, was placed at the curb in front of the
building. The need for more space caused
the Society in 1962 to erect more com-
modious and improved quarters at 205
Ensminger Road.

The ceremonies began at 1 p.m. with
Robert L. Damm, Director of the Historical
Society, presiding. After the introduction of
several guests, Robert B. Meech, President of
the Historical Society, and Charles H. Wood,
II, President of the S.P.C.A., addressed the
assemblage. The two then unveiled the marker
which was a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Meech.

Representing the S.P.C.A. in addition
to President Wood were: Mrs. Dugan Middle-
ton, Executive Director; C. Taylor Wettlaufer,
Vice President; Mrs. Irving A. Barrett,
Secretary; George L. Grobe, Jr., Treasurer;
and the following members of the Board of
Directors: Mrs. Stephen Kellogg; Mrs. Frank
T. Wilton; Cornell S. Babcock; Ashford G. P.
Murch; and Charles P. Stevenson. Mrs. Sunny

Bagley, Public Information and Volunteer
Coordinator, was also in attendance.

The Historical Society was represented
by President and Mrs. Robert B. Meech;
David Diebold, member of the Board of
Managers; Dr. Daniel McGuire, member of
the Markers Committee; and Marker Com-
mittee Chairman I. Frank Mogavero and Mrs.
Mogavero.

About an hour before the dedication,
the water trough, donated by the Millers,
was rededicated on the S.P.C.A. grounds. It
was on exhibit at the Historical Society
from 1962 - 1980 and was returned to the
S.P.C.A. for relocation.

The S.P.C.A. marker contains the fol-
lowing legend:

ERIE COUNTY S.P.C.A.

Founded 1868. Fifth oldest Society
for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
in the country. Incorporated 1888. Took
over Buffalo Dog Pound 1895. Located at
various places then moved to W. Tupper St.
1916 and to this site 1962.

ERIE COUNTY S.P.C.A.

BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1979

On Wednesday, June 11, a marker was
unveiled at the Episcopal Church Home at
24 Rhode Island Street on Buffalo's West
Side. It is the oldest, privately operated
home for the aging in Western New York
having been incorporated on July 28, 1858,
under the guidance of the Rev. William
Shelton, D.D., Rector of St. Paul's Cathedral.

It began on Washington Street as the
Church Charity Foundation, a home for
aged and destitute women. In the spring of
1866, it was decided to establish an orphan



S.P.C.A. President Charles H. Wood, II,
watches Society President Robert B. Meech
unveil marker plaque at S.P.C.A. Building.



Marker ceremony at Episcopal Church Home, Edward C. Weeks, Executive Director, and Robert Illig, Administrator.

ward in connection with the institution. This necessitated greater facilities and the Edwin Thomas house and grounds at Rhode Island and Seventh Streets were purchased for \$12,000.

The Hutchinson Memorial Chapel of the Holy Innocents was erected on the grounds in 1895, and in 1905 the Thornton Memorial Building was opened as a home for the aged. Since that time, as the institution grew, new, improved buildings have been added making the Home one of the most up-to-date facilities of its kind in our area.

Robert L. Damm, Director of the Historical Society, presided as Master of Ceremonies for the dedication which began at 11 a.m. with an Invocation by Father Paul Henderson, Chaplain of the Home. Robert

B. Meech, President of the Society, spoke a few words of welcome to the assembled group which numbered about 50 to 75 people. He was followed by the Rt. Reverend Harold B. Robinson, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Western New York, who addressed the group in words befitting the occasion.

Bishop Robinson and Mr. Meech then unveiled the marker which reads as follows:

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH HOME OF
WESTERN NEW YORK**

The oldest privately operated home for aging
in

Western New York

Incorporated July 28, 1858

The Rev. William Shelton, D.D. Chairman

Present location June 7, 1866

BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

EPISCOPAL CHURCH HOME

1980

Among those in attendance, in addition to those already mentioned, was Edward C. Weeks, Director of the Episcopal Church Home. Mrs. Grace Rich and Henry Killeen, members of the Society's Board of Managers, were in the audience.

On a gloomy, drizzly, Monday morning, at 10:30 November 24th to be exact, a small group met in the foyer of the Buffalo Evening News Building at One News Plaza in downtown Buffalo. The occasion was the unveiling of a marker to commemorate the One Hundredth Anniversary of the *Buffalo Evening News*.

Generations of Buffalonians and Western New Yorkers have depended on the daily newspaper for local news and for a more intimate contact with the world at large. For generations the newspaper has



Henry W. Killeen, Society Board Member; Hon. Edward J. Rutkowski, Erie County Executive; Hon. James D. Griffin, Buffalo Mayor; Henry Z. Urban, President and Publisher of the Buffalo Evening News; and Robert B. Meech, Society President, at marker ceremony at Buffalo Evening News Building

shaped, to some extent, the attitudes of its readers and has aided immeasurably in making our community an outstanding area of the state and nation.

Of the 1,787 daily newspapers in the United States, only 71 have circulations of over 150,000. The *Buffalo Evening News* has a daily circulation of over 268,000.

Lester W. Smith, Associate Director of the Historical Society, who presided, introduced the guests in attendance. Robert B. Meech, Society President, and Henry Z. Urban, President and Publisher of the paper, spoke words of welcome and then unveiled the plaque. This was followed by congratulatory remarks from James Griffin, Mayor of Buffalo, and Edward Rutkowski, Executive of Erie County. In attendance too, was Murray B. Light, Editor and Vice-President of the *News*. Also in the group were Sanford Lipsey, Vice-President, Media Operations, Blue Chip Stamps, and Larry Jasinski who represented City Comptroller, Robert Whelan. Representing the Society were Grace Rich and Henry Killeen, members of the Board of Managers, and I. Frank Mogavero, member of the Board and Chairman of the Markers Committee who was accompanied by his wife, Phyllis. After the ceremonies, the group went to the fifth floor where coffee and Danish were served.

The marker reads as follows:

THE BUFFALO EVENING NEWS

Daily launched October 11, 1880 by

Edward H. Butler, founder of the Buffalo

Sunday News, 1873. E. H. Butler Jr.

succeeded as President in 1914. Mrs. Kate R.

Butler in 1956 and Henry Z. Urban in 1974

Architect: Edward Durell Stone

THE BUFFALO EVENING NEWS

BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1980

The Black Rock Marker at Niagara Street and Busti Avenue, which was repaired in 1979, was vandalized sometime in August. The marker was broken off the standard which remains giving mute evidence of the commission of a dastardly, senseless deed.

The Salisbury Press plaque on Main Street in Harris Hill was found to have been painted black with white lettering. At least the marker is intact and during the summer of 1981 it will be restored to the usual blue and gold colors which distinguish the Society's markers.

There are a few markers which are awaiting reinstallation. Among them is that commemorating the site of the first permanent church building in Buffalo. It belonged to the Methodists and was located on Niagara Street between Franklin and Pearl Streets. Due to urban renewal, there is no building on the site, and the Committee feels that a marker on a standard in an open area is an invitation to vandals.

The plaque commemorating the site of the residence of Martin Middaugh (Mittag), Buffalo's first German settler, on the east side of Washington Street near Seneca was also a victim of urban renewal. No building exists at that location, and the Committee is awaiting developments.

In 1908, from February 12 - July 30, the Thomas Flyer, an automobile manufactured in Buffalo, won the greatly renowned race around the world. It was made at the Thomas Industrial Center at 1200 Niagara Street between West Ferry and Breckenridge Streets. The marker, which had been placed there, disappeared a few years ago and the Committee is now in the process of ordering another to be installed on the premises.

Now that the West Side Rowing Club is in its new quarters at the foot of Porter Avenue on the Black Rock Channel, the Committee is seeking an appropriate time to rededicate the marker which was removed at the time the old building on Bird Island was consumed by fire.

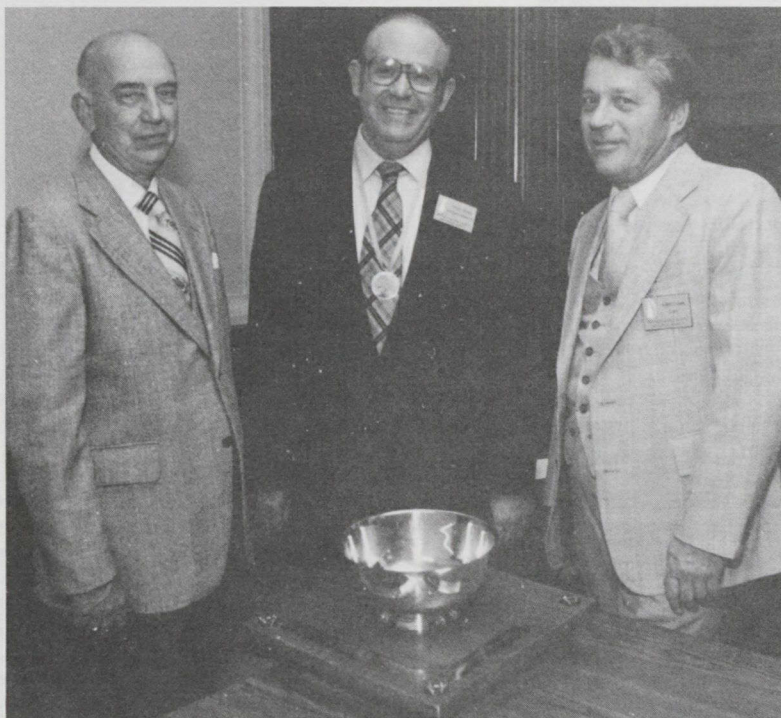
Under investigation are a number of sites for possible commemoration. Among them are: Longview, the home for unprotected children, located on the northeast corner of Niagara & Jersey Streets; The University of Buffalo Medical School Pioneers on Bailey Avenue; Bryant and Stratton Business Institute on Main Street; Bethlehem Steel Company on Lake Shore Road in Lackawanna; the Octagon House in Akron, New York; and the residence of Herman Holerith on Main Street in Buffalo. Holerith was the inventor of the tabulating machine used in the United States Census of 1890. His company, the Tabulating Company, later changed to IBM. Holerith can well be called the father of modern data processing.

Early in the new year, the Committee will meet and establish a list of priorities for the year 1981.

As usual, the Committee finds itself at a loss as how best to express its gratitude to the news media. It is they who have by their constant presence at the Committee's functions brought to the attention of the public, by word and picture, the importance of recalling important events in our interesting heritage. The Committee must rely on the hackneyed phrase, "Thank you."

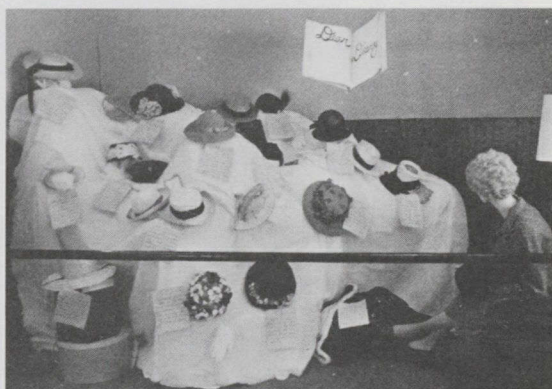
Of course, the Committee realizes that without the backing of the Board of Managers and the general membership of the Society, there would be no Committee.

It is that support which keeps the Committee at high pitch, anxious to please so as to be worthy of the confidence tacitly expressed by the Society.



Society Director Robert L. Damm, right, with 1980 Award recipients. Kenneth Savage, left, President of Eden Historical Society, received the Daniel B. Niederlander Award for his Society. Dr. Joseph A. Grande, center, was awarded the Owen B. Augspurger Local History Award, given annually to a local historian.

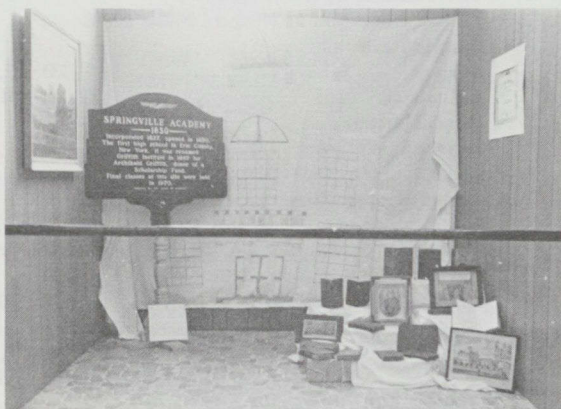
Awards



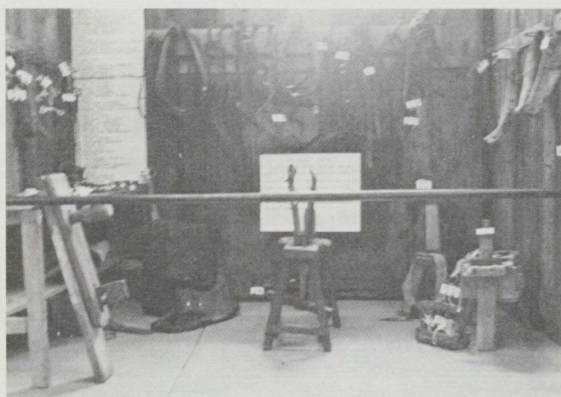
First prize, "Dear Diary. A Glimpse of 1925-50 History," Cheektowaga.



Second prize, "The Importance of the Tradition of Marriage to Elma Ladies," Elma.



Third prize, "Springville-Griffith Institute's 150th Anniversary," Concord.



Fourth prize, "Rich Wood Harness Shop," Sardinia.



Judge Anthony P. LoRusso and President Robert B. Meech. Judge LoRusso accepts on behalf of the Buffalo Naval and Servicemen's Park, Inc. a citation presented to the Park by the Board of Managers.

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The 1833 Buffalo Lighthouse was chosen as the insignia of the Historical Society in the general tradition of the lighthouse as a symbol of learning, truth, and light as well as for its local importance. The site, located at the foot of Furhmann Blvd., is under the Society's care.

Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society

The object of this Society as expressed in its Constitution is "to discover, procure, and preserve whatever may relate to the History of Western New York, in general, and the City of Buffalo in particular. . . .

"Finally, let this institution be the grand repository of everything calculated to throw light on our history — books, newspapers, letters, pamphlets, maps, medals, and relics of every description, should be deposited here — and let our citizens unite heart and hand in building up this Society which, while it does justice to the dead, reflects honor upon the living."

MILLARD FILLMORE

President of the Buffalo Historical
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